

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES AND ST BASIL FENHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1184511

Details

Other names	ST JAMES AND ST BASIL FENHAM, ST JAMES AND ST BASIL PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-07-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: The Anglican Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham in the West End of Newcastle upon Tyne. Supporting individuals and families in their faith and life. Provision of community buildings, public gardens, community cafe and community music programme and concert venue.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Newcastle Upon Tyne City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£171,050	£169,313	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,232	£132,112	-	-
2022-12-31	£107,918	£102,710	-	-
2021-12-31	£107,319	£102,711	-	-
2020-12-31	£117,941	£116,251	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev James McGowan	Chair	2019-02-27
Anthony Roberts		2022-04-10
Catherine Bonnie Shaw		2020-03-15
Jeanette Welch		2020-03-15
Margaret Cutting		2020-03-15
Margaret Elizabeth Green		2020-03-15
Marjorie Rochester		2023-03-26
Nigel Welch		2020-03-15
Rachel Helen Sheena Gill		2020-03-15

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England & Wales - Charity number 1184511

Accounts



The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham

Annual Meetings 2025

& Reports of our parish life in 2024



www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Final

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2024

&

Annual Parochial Church meetings 2025

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2024. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on the 16th March 2025 as part of the main 10am service.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

The winter of 2024 might well be remembered as the coldest ever in church -at least in our living memory! The year began with a significant challenge in that no matter how much money, (which we didn't really have), we threw at the church boilers, we just couldn't get the place warm. We braved the storm and so as our Christmas 2023 celebrations drew to a close, we began a New Year 'in this together' as we shivered, gathered under patio heaters and cut services short. Whilst the heating problem would be practically solved by summer, (see the fabric report), our finances wouldn't allow us to actually burn enough gas to heat the place for the rest of the year. None-the-less, 2024 was another year of shared life together with its joy and celebration alongside times of sadness, grief and lament.

2024 saw a change in Churchwardens once again as Margaret Cutting stepped down from her role after 8 years, and Nigel was elected to this position. Margaret was one half of the warden duo who welcomed me to the parish (now six years ago), and she has continued as a loyal and open friend to me and to the parish through this time.

Tim and Jeanette continued for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively.

The Parish lost a number of good friends in 2024. Amongst them, Fiona Le Geyt found her hope of heaven as she died at the end of February at home. Fiona was a member of both Js & Bs and Westgate Road Baptist Church. Perhaps best remembered for her attention to her outfit, her wit and character and her endless hope and certainty that our earthly life is not the end of all things.

2024 continued to see tumult of war in Europe and Israel. As a parish we sought to always have open doors of hospitality where we could and, although sometimes uncomfortable, it was an honour to host members of the local Palestinian Community in the autumn as they gathered to share their own cries of lament together.

The year saw some significant reorganisation – an awful lot of church floor cleaning in the summer (see the fabric report) – and a year ending with perhaps our most precarious and fragile financial position to date. This is challenging, but it is fragility that we can manage as we recognise that there many more serious areas of frailty within our world today. Yesterday (26th February), I stood at the end of the rail line that brought over 1.2million people to their death in the camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was a sobering place to pause and reflect. In an increasingly instable world, it seems that some parts of our worldwide community are at risk of forgetting the fragility of humanity. I write this whilst flying home from Poland on the 27th February, the sixth anniversary of my Installation as Vicar, and for me at least, more importantly the commemoration of George Herbert. Herbert is loved or loathed by clergy for all sorts of reasons. As poet, he wrote what are regarded by some, as collections of some of the finest English poetry and hymnody. As Priest, he turned away from a successful life as a Member of Parliament in the Government of King

James I, to a life as a country parson in a parish just outside Sailsbury where he would live out his life, dying at the young age of 39. He famously wrote the text *The Country Parson* in which he defines the place of church, priest, pastoral care and population. He also articulates the need to be both ‘country parson and pioneer’. This is something of a wish to see those fundamental human truths and experiences maintained whilst responded to each and every new challenge and context.

As always, these pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish: the challenges and the successes, perhaps also woven in the reports, there is something of our relationships, hopes and dreams. It seems to me that in 2024, in the face of fragility of many forms, we sought to continue to hold our sacred space as a sanctuary for humanity in the spirit of Herbert.

James ~ 27th February 2025 *Commemoration George Herbert, Priest & Poet 1633.*

Curate’s report *From The Revd Ryan McKeon*

This is my third year at J’s and B’s and so likely to be my last. Over my time here I have engaged with every aspect of the church’s life. James has been a kind and fair teacher and friend. My experiences here have been many. I have moved a lot of chairs. (Something I was promised would happen when I came for my interview.) Partook and led the worship of this church, taught and studied with many of you, sat with the sick and dying, and more so have simply walked alongside you. This year we welcomed Bishop Mark to baptise and confirm members of our community, which was a highlight for me to be involved with.

At a funeral that I was conducting recently, someone asked me ‘what does a curate do?’ Assuming that my role is different to that of the vicar. And in one sense that is true, a curate is there to learn; however, one of the joys of this parish and being the curate here has been the fact that from day one I was valued and treated as an equal member of the leadership with a unique perspective. I was not an apprentice, or someone with their training wheel still on. I was encouraged to be myself as an individual. (This is a testament to James) I was encouraged to not simply become a carbon copy of my Training Incumbent, but instead I was to offer my unique view on things. All of the team were encouraged to do so; I have been able to learn from others, hearing their perspectives and learning from them. As a place to learn what it means to be a priest, J’s and B’s has been the perfect place for me.

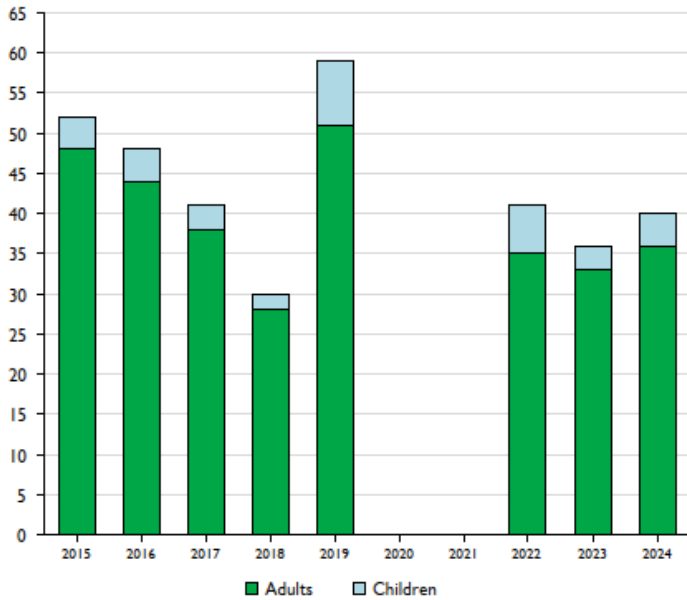
I also cannot overlook that this was Huw’s and my first home together, and so while this has been a place of professional development, it has equally and arguably more importantly been a place for us to work out what it means to be a couple. In both these respects, the community of this church have allowed me to develop as a priest with my own unique traditions. (I promise to take any Icons of Mary with me when I leave.) And equally supported and encouraged Huw and I as we have worked out what it means to be us in this place at this time. I am not going anywhere imminently, this is

not a formal goodbye, but a brief overview of how this parish has shaped me. Just as much as I have shaped it.

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 79 (20223= 78)

Usual Sunday Attendance



The Usual Sunday Attendance figure in 2024 included those who attended our Sunday Services

In 2024 our 10am services continued to be streamed online and average numbers of those joining in continued to be in the range of 6-12.

Easter Day 2024

- 2024= Attendance in the Parish – 67**
- 2023= Attendance in the Parish - 55
- 2022 = Attendance in the Parish - 111
- 2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

Christmas 2024 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2024 – 413

Attendance in the Parish 2023 – 390

Attendance in the Parish 2022 – 297

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174*

* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes ‘non average’ attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October.

2020 = 44

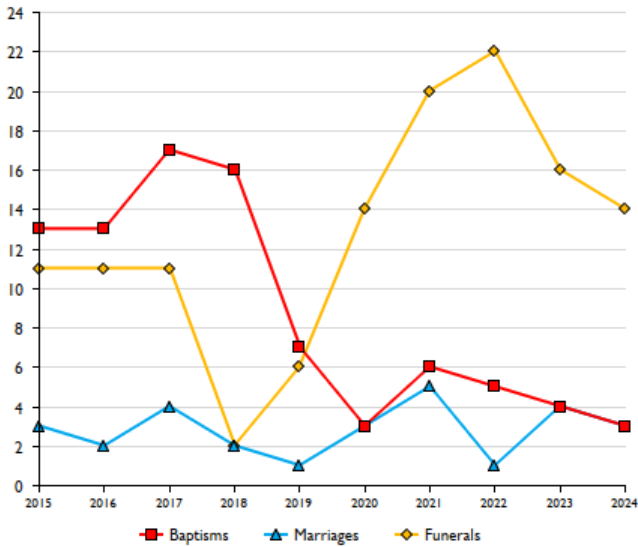
2021 = 39

2022 = 42

2023 = 57

2024 = 41

Baptisms, marriages and funerals



In 2024 3 weddings, 14 funerals and 3 baptisms were held in the Parish.

These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Administration, publicity and website.

In 2024 parish administration was completed by the Vicar, Curate and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary).

Administration in the parish is a significant task and we remain thankful to those who help out with small jobs to share the load around a little.

In the autumn, a desktop PC was installed in the Vestry to provide access to online resources and the easier management of the printer, wifi network, heating controls and general parish admin.

Our Facebook community ended the year with just under 1000 people 'following' us, this represents another year of growth on the 2023 figures.

In the late summer of 2023, the parish began using a new data management tool *iKnowChurch* to help with diary bookings and events and to start bringing our various mailing lists together. In 2024 we introduce further modules to this suite including ticketing and a secure database for managing Safeguarding concerns and reports.

The African Chaplaincy From The Revd Osaro Omobude

The African Chaplaincy last met as separate group during the winter of 2023. Throughout 2024 members of the Chaplaincy joined together with the 10am congregation.

Café & Fenham Markets

Café from David Todd

In September 2025, I took over from Vicky Pitt co-ordinating the café at St James and St Basil. The café operates from 10am to 1pm on Thursdays. It relies heavily on the good will of our volunteers who do all of the baking and serving. We usually have a team of four or five, including myself. We are looking to recruit one or two more to allow our regulars a bit of respite as it's demanding work!

The café is an excellent community space, used by a wide range of people from the local area. It also generates a profit, usually making more than £400 a week, after costs.

We also provided refreshments at the Christmas Market again this year as well as the two Christmas Choir concerts. These are very profitable, especially given that they are staffed by volunteers.

Markets –

2024 saw four markets held in church on Saturday mornings with a range of local producers from craft, to cheese, honey and beer. There are four markets planned for 2025.

Children and Young People

Whilst we regularly have children and young people present in church, these are often in small numbers and in the absence of a regular group of people to prepare and lead anything specifically for this age group, the number attending is often very low. In February 2024 we experimented with a third Sunday Service pattern that mean that the Vicar could be in the vestry with support to lead a group for any younger members.

This was difficult to sustain as the year went on without more regular committed help.

Our ‘special’ services (for example, Harvest & Christmas), saw large numbers of family groups attending, perhaps suggesting a desire by families to keep some contact with us, even if they cannot be here very often.

‘Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs’ (our early years, weekly music session) ran throughout 2024. As children grew older, numbers tailed off towards the summer, but we were pleased to welcome increasing number of new babies and toddlers in the autumn.

The Deanery - Deanery Synod Report

Rachel Gill and Margaret Green continue to represent the parish on the Newcastle West Deanery Synod following their re-election at the last APCM. 2024 saw The Deanery Synod continue to meet three times per year – once per academic term. As has been custom, it continues to meet in a different venue each time. Our meetings begin with business and conclude with a short 15 minutes service of compline at 8:30pm – with ‘lights – out’ at 9pm.

The Deanery welcomed a new Vicar in the late summer of 2024, The Revd Ruth Harley was appointed as Vicar of Cowgate and Priest-in-charge of Newbiggin Hall. We also said ‘farewell’ to The Revd David Kirkwood on his retirement as Rector of Benwell and Scotswood.

The Vicar continues to work as Area Dean, supporting parishes in vacancy or

moments of need as requested and working alongside the Bishop and Archdeacon in a 'lite-touch' oversight of the churches in the area.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every 6 years the Electoral Roll of the Church of England has to be renewed. As 2019 was when it was last renewed it is now due to be renewed this year 2025. Everyone wishing to be on the new roll has to apply to be on it.

For the first time in this parish applications can be made online. Those whose email address is already held by the church should have received the necessary form to apply on line.

For those not on line paper forms have been available in church or from me. Application had to be made no later than 2 weeks before March 2nd, 2 Weeks before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Sunday 16th March, to enable members to vote at that meeting. Application may still be made after March 2nd but voting will not be allowed until the APCM 2026. There are general notes on the back of the forms.

Some members from the last Roll may no longer be able to rejoin , they may have moved away, or found another church more suitable to their needs. It is permissible to be on the Electoral Roll of 2 churches but voting is only allowed at one of those. The total number of members may not be available before this report goes to print but will be available at the APCM

Engagement with Schools

Once again in 2024, we welcomed school curriculum visits from Dame Allan's Junior School and Wingrove Primary School and we visited the senior school to support their Religious Studies Curriculum. The Parish also led Collective Worship in Cheviot Primary School as the Parish of Newbiggin Hall remained vacant. Dame Allan's Chamber Choir led Evensong in church at the end of each half term. 2024 saw the choir change direction and it is almost now entirely comprised of students rather than staff. The Direction of Keir McGregor (Teacher of Music) and Kris Thomsett (Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral), has seen a significant leaps forward in the ability of the choir. Towards the end of the academic year, services were also accompanied in part by an organ scholar.

Monday mornings saw the beginning of music tuition in church on the Organ as individual students from Dame Allan's came for lessons and guidance.

At the end of the summer term, the Vicar stepped down from his role as Chaplain to the Dame Allan's Schools. He will continue to support schools in this role until a replacement is found and we look forward to our relationships with the schools continuing in the years ahead.

The Vicar also resigned his position as a Director of the Pele Academy Trust after

a number of years on the Board there. As the Pele Trust continued to grow and develop the role was demanding an increasing amount of time away from the Parish. The Vicar remains a member and Director of Diocesan Board of Education.

Fabric **Church**

Routine servicing and repairs continued throughout 2024. Small projects and repairs were completed thanks to the formation of a small team including Nigel and Kevin.

In the autumn of 2024, a Defibrillator was installed in a heated cabinet in the church gardens. This was funded in part by an anonymous donor and The Dame Allan's Parents Association. By the end of the year, this had been used twice the Ambulance Service and remains on standby for the community.

A further anonymous gift prompted an appeal to 'correct the clock'. In just a few weeks, a total of £10,000 was raised to cover the cost of the installation of an auto wind mechanism and regulator. This work will also cover the cost of repairs and adjustment to the clock mechanism meaning that after 90 years of service, the Church Clock will continue to be a reliable local landmark. By the end of the year the Faculty Application had been submitted, and it is hoped that this work will be completed during the spring of 2025.

As in previous years, routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system, and the organ was tuned towards the end of the year by Woods of Huddersfield.

An off-the-cuff remark by a member of the Wednesday Choir in the late summer of 2023 prompted a conversation with the PCC about the refurbishment of the lower Vestry area. By the end of the year a design brief had been agreed to refurbish the existing two (now redundant toilets), install a new accessible WC, storage area and heating. The works were estimated to cost in the region of £45,000. By April of 2024 grants from Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust and the Northumbria Historic Churches Trust were given to cover almost all the cost of this, and the PCC appointed a contractor. The works were carried in June and July. In addition, the Vestry was redecorated and a small 'brew kitchen' was installed. Repairs to the church heating system were carried out and a new water main and waste drains were installed. This project would be the largest 'upgrade' to the church building since it was opened in the 1930s.

By the year end, the PCC had begun to specify the next major improvement which might see level access installed at the Fenham Hall Drive entrance, together with new landscaping on Fenham Hall Drive (to replace the cobbled area) and an internal timber and glass lobby to help reduce heat loss and improve safety and security.

Fabric – Hall (including hall users)

Routine servicing continued in 2024. Our regular users continued to meet, and activities included Zumba classes, daytime exercise groups and yoga, an art group for children who are homeschooled, the local History Society, English and Maths Tuition, early morning weekend yoga, evening Youth Group and our resident Scout Group the 82nd Newcastle.

Our two studio spaces (the Upper Room and the Basement) continue to be home to two local businesses. The basement is occupied by Derek Farrell and is home to his joinery workshop. Derek continues to be in demand locally, but offers his workshop to the community on a Saturday mornings and is often around to offer a loan of tools or tips, advice and guidance. Derek and continues to support the parish through his offer of time and labour to help carry out some routine maintenance and work.

The Upper Room remained the home of Petals & Power, a local floristry and art studio run by Vicky Foreshaw until Easter, when Vicky relocated to space in the city centre. Demand for this space was higher than we expected and by the year end we had new resident business eager to set up in there as *The Wild Potager* opened for trade under the direction of Jane. Jane lives locally and sells and prepares products using plants and flowers grown on the nearby allotments.

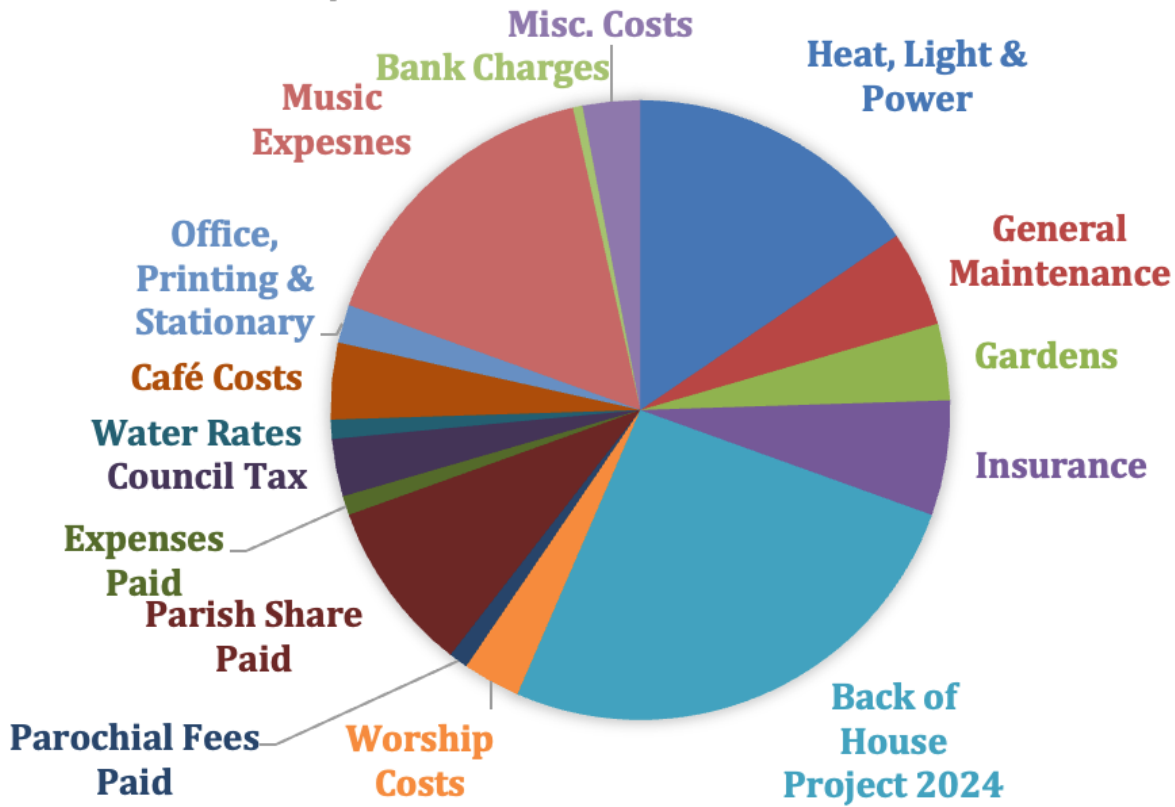
The redevelopment of the Parish Hall– initially conceived pre COVID-19, but on hold since – should remain a priority. The Parish has spent a minimal amount on repair and maintenance in 2024, and the building is really showing its age. However, at this stage we do not have the resources to invest into the site. The PCC continues to slowly work with our architect to look to a new future for this site.

Finance

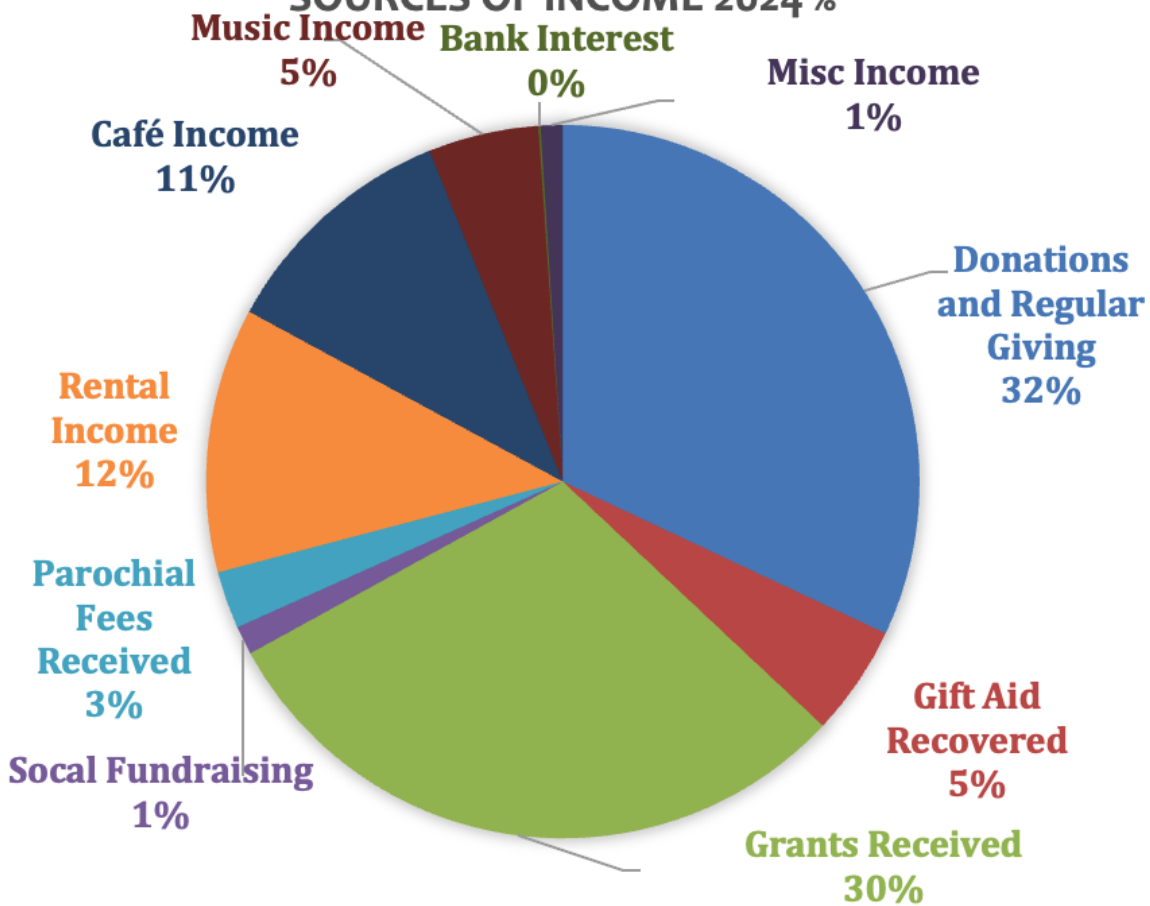
The accounts are appended at the back of this report. They show a year-end balance of just over £20,000. However, this includes a restricted amount of £10,000 that was given for the repairs to clock, meaning that our actual ‘free’ cash balance at the year end was the lowest it has been for many years. As a Parish we have no investments or assets to draw upon, and whilst we have a high cash turnover, cashflow has to be carefully managed. Excluding major capital works, we need over £2,500 each week to simply stand still. Whilst this could be seen as a great challenge, we also ought to remember that we are a very busy parish with very open doors – whilst we have high costs, when compared with similar parishes, we probably delivery very good ‘value for money’ when we consider all the activity that takes place, and the number of individual people that we welcome and engage with each week.

At the annual meeting, our Treasurer will give a verbal update too, and together with the Vicar and Wardens, will be available to answer questions or make further comment.

COSTS 2024 %



SOURCES OF INCOME 2024 %



Gardens

In 2024 The Church Gardens continued to be an asset shared with the community. Our paid gardener, Penny Hunter continued to work with volunteers to manage the gardens throughout the year. We reported in last year's report that one of regular volunteers Emma, was involved in a serious accident resulting in a brain injury. Emma's recovery continued throughout 2024, though the nature of her injury meant that she did not return to the gardens this year, she still hopes to rejoin the group in the future.

By the end of the year, we finally took delivery of three new memorial benches. This delivery will see the completion of the project to reinstall benches in garden. One is in memory of a local resident, Berrie of Auburn Gardens who sadly passed away. Another in memory of the parents of another local family, and the third in memory of Mrs Fiona Le Geyt.

Godly Play

We continue to hold a large stock of Godly Play resources and these continue to be used on occasional school visits, and also on some occasion during our church services. With nobody here to run regular sessions, these paused in the late spring of 2022 and did not restart throughout 2024.

Hospitality

As always, the parish mission continues to place a high priority on its mission to create space for all whether through services, events, concerts or simply over coffee and food. We continued to meet for shared lunches after services on a number of occasions throughout the year.

Jazz @ Js & Bs from Tony Roberts

In 2024, Jazz at Js & Bs continued to take a break.

Lay Ministry Reader's report from Andy Lie

First of all, I am most grateful to members (old and new) who have welcomed me (and Mabel) back into SSJ&B after an 'absence' from 2011-2022/3, and specially to James our Vicar for agreeing to transfer my Licence from St Andrew's, Newgate Street, Newcastle, to this parish. Secondly, it was through your generosity that I was able to celebrate the 30th anniversary of my Admission and Licensing as a Reader on Sunday, 11 February 2024, at Evensong followed by a meal and conversations in the Vicarage.

The Office of a Reader, theologically-trained and episcopally-licensed, has a long history and development within the Church of England and is a fully voluntary lay and teaching role. With the distinctive blue scarf and robes, we are at times confusedly perceived as ordained ministers though I have tried to support the clergy (James, Osaro, Ryan) as best as possible. Thank you all too for putting up with my occasional

preaching. While it's often a thankless task, I prefer to preach what I practise (rather than the proverbial reverse order!) and it's an opportunity to sow the seeds towards a deeper grasp of the Holy Scriptures.

Liturgy & Worship

The first half of the year saw our liturgical music continue to be led by Mr Robin Beaumont and Mr Paul Ritchie. In the summer, the PCC advertised for a permanent resident organist and they were pleased to appoint Dr Myles Hartley FRCO in July.

From Dr Myles Hartley

It has been a real joy to accompany Sunday services and to contribute to the life and worship at J's and B's since becoming Organist in July. I am grateful to James, Ryan, Osaro and Andy, for the opportunity to work with them in planning hymns and musical settings. It is a joy, also, to work with the Sanctuary Voices, who continue to provide wonderful choral music on the third Sunday of each month. The choir also led the carols and descants for December's joyous Christingle and Crib Service. The choir has sung a broad range of repertoire over recent months, from anthems by Bach and Vivaldi, to contemporary works by Kathryn Rose and Richard Shephard.

At this time, it is exciting to be adding additional communion settings to our repertoire for congregational singing. During Lent we will sing the 1549 communion setting by John Merbecke, one of the earliest pieces of Anglican liturgical music. For Eastertide, we will be singing David Thorne's uplifting Mass of St. Thomas. With gratitude to Tony, on April 27th we will also be singing the Jazz Mass written for J's and B's by one of the UK's leading jazz musicians, Paul Edis. April 27th is the Sunday immediately before International Jazz Day, and Paul's congregational setting, with its wonderful arrangement for organ by Robin Beaumont, will give us additional musical resources to go alongside our settings by Schubert and MacMillan.

I look forward very much to the year ahead as we continue to nurture and grow our liturgical music and repertoire.

Morning and evening prayer and Midweek Eucharist from *The Revd Ryan McKeon*

The act of meeting together to pray morning and evening prayer was reestablished when the curate first turned up, the timings have changed recently to reflect the changing patterns. Most of the time it is just the parish clergy who meet to pray, but everyone is welcome to attend if they are around or would value praying as a group. People still come in to the church to light candles and leave notes for things

they would like prayer for. These are prayed at the next service of Morning or Evening prayer. Over the last we have developed a small cohort of people who regularly join with the clergy in praying morning and evening prayer. The midweek Eucharist was well attended at first, attaching it own group of people who valued the early morning shorter service or for whom due to commitment Sunday attendance was unlikely. Of late, the service has been poorly attended. And so has been paused while we reassess its need and viability.

Sunday Services and Occasional Offices from *The Revd James McGowan*

Our 10am Sunday services continued to be streamed online to our website and via YouTube. We have had a regular group of between 6 – 12 join us each week. We retained the option of being able to stream to families on private pages if requested.

Our Sunday Services have been mainly congregational led. Our Sunday Choir has continued to meet and grow throughout the year and is now a regular feature of our third Sunday services.

Music

The church continues to be the base for several choirs and music groups. J's & B's Singers continues to grow, now with around 80 singers who perform in our three concerts a year. Attendance at Concerts was very good with standing room only on a number of occasions. Income from the Js & Bs Choir continues to subsidise our other musical activity, notable the work of the Phoenix Choir.

The Newcastle Phoenix Choir continues to meet on Friday afternoons in the church. During the year they performed several times - alongside The Morning Chorus in concert, in a service of Remembrance at Brunswick Methodist Church and in the homelessness awareness service at J's & B's. In the Autumn of the 2024, choir member Tim, curated an exhibition of photographic portraits of choir members. This remained in church throughout the early part of the winter

Alongside choirs run on behalf of the PCC, Js & Bs continued to be a home for Voices of Hope, The Fenham Ensemble and The Morning Chorus as they worked in rehearsal and in concerts. The Saturday Classic series saw another season of world leading performers visit the church.

The church continues to be a popular choice for musicians looking to perform their music. 2024 saw the church used as a 'recording studio' on a number of occasions by private musicians keen to make the best of the acoustics and facilities on site.

Net Zero Carbon 2030

General Synod voted in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency



is a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice. You can find out more about the 2030 target online at

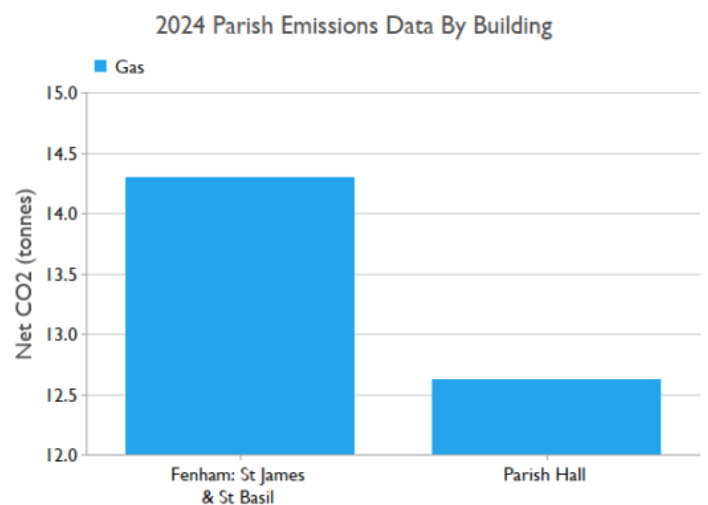
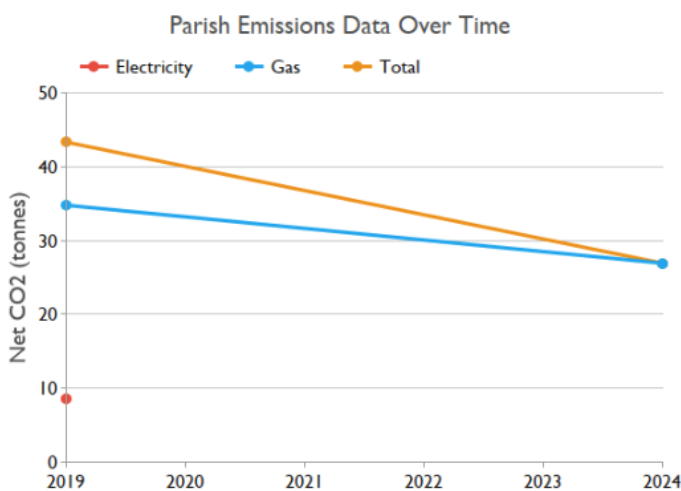
<https://www.churchofengland.org/net-zero-carbon-routemap>

The Parish achieved the Silver Eco Church award in 2023.

Since then, we already begun to take some steps to reduce our environmental impact. Our Gas heating boilers are all ‘A’ Rated. In 2021, we replaced all the lighting in Church with LED fittings and adapted our Chandeliers to take LED Lamps and we’ve introduced recycling facilities in the church and hall.

Our electricity now is all 100% renewable.

Over the last five years we’ve reduced our Carbon Dioxide emissions produced by burning gas from 35 Tonnes per year to 24.8 Tonnes in 2024.



Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As the official ‘Benefice Property’, maintenance of the Vicarage remains the responsibility of the Diocese, day to day running costs are met by the Vicarage Household.

As reported for the sixth consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. That said, a national scheme to install Car Charging points in clergy housing saw one installed at the Vicarage in October. This was funded by the Church Commissioners as part of a strategy to reduce the carbon footprint of the wider church.

Problems with the guttering continued and there is still a leak in at the side (above the yard) of the house causing damp and moss to build up. In addition, in the late summer it was identified that the ‘hidden’ lead gutter above the front door is failing due to rotten timber within the eaves of the house.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. This is noted for the record as this extra burden is not faced by some clergy households in more modern or efficient vicarages in effect meant a reduction in stipend for the incumbent here, (all parish clergy in the diocese receive the same ‘package in terms of payment, pension and the provision of an official

house). Some secondary glazing was provided in 2023 (funded jointly by the diocese and the Vicarage household), and in the late summer of 2024, the Vicarage Household covered the cost of secondary glazing to two further rooms.

Some redecoration was carried to some rooms and the kitchen received a facelift with the addition of replacement cupboard doors towards the end of the year. *The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space. The house was due for its 5 yearly inspection in 2024, however this was not carried out by the Diocesan Surveyor.*

32 Auburn Gardens

The house is owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens and under the terms of a trust deed, retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish.

The house is likely to require significant repair work before a new tenant might be able to move. As reported in previous Annual Reports, the Kitchen will need replacement at some point soon. In addition, the roof and chimney stack now need repair to the ridge, pointing and flashings. The external render on the front of the house is failing and the house will need redecorating before a tenant can move in. The PCC will need to carefully consider options for the future of this property in 2025.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of upmost importance

Health and Safety

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, we continue to review risk assessments for activities and events.

Safeguarding

In 2024 Professor Jay was appointed by the government to look into safeguarding in the Church of England. She scrutinised the present structures, processes & challenges of the church, especially in regard to victims of abuse. She recommended safeguarding be entirely independent of the church, thereby showing the Church of England was serious about safeguarding & so restoring trust in the church. Her advice was discussed at the General Synods in both February 2024 & February 2025 . This year an amendment was introduced so further time is required to allow for more scrutiny . Bishop Helen-Anne is in favour of of Professor Jay's recommendations.

To achieve this the welfare of children, young people & adults will be promoted by working to prevent abuse from occurring, responding well to those who have been abused & also identify & give support where a person may present a risk to others &

take steps to mitigate such risks. By safe recruitment for people working or volunteering with children & adults it is hoped to reduce this risk & case histories shown on the various training courses on this subject are useful ways in which can reflect on our own practice.

Safeguarding Policies & Procedures for the Church of England are outlined nationally by the House of Bishops & can be seen in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, a copy of which is displayed on the church notice board . Safeguarding is always on the agenda of PCC meetings & policies agreed upon by the PCC are reviewed as necessary. All members of the PCC, as trustees of the church, & anyone in close contact with children, young people & vulnerable adults, are subject to DBS checks, (the Disclosure & Baring Service) every 5 years & those checked in this way have to attend training courses, on line initially & then in groups, either face to face or on Zoom thereafter. Information about safeguarding & useful numbers can be seen on the church notice board & website, - jamesbasilfenham.org. uk. & details of the Safeguarding Officer are on the Sunday pew sheet.

At the end of 2024 an in house audit of DBS checks was carried out. It is intended that a similar exercise of training will be conducted in the Spring of 2025. A new system for logging concerns and actions was introduced as part of the *iKnowChurch* system towards the end of 2024.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle

The group has had another busy year, our numbers continue to be healthy and there is a waiting list for Squirrels and Beavers of children wanting to start their Scouting journey with us. The Squirrel section is particularly proving popular.

In April we had hoped to repeat the Expedition camp for Scouts at Dilston near Corbridge, this had been postponed from the previous October due to the site being waterlogged. The young people had a lovely weekend with some of them completing their Expedition Challenge which in turn meant completing their Chief Scout Gold Award, the highest award they can earn in Scouts section.

In the summer we had our annual Group Camp at Moor House Adventure Centre near Durham. It was a busy camp with everyone having a fab time. It is always so lovely having young people spending the weekend together, enjoying the activities, Scouts cooking for themselves and of course coming together for Camp fire.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. Our leaders are working hard to offer a fantastic programme to the Scouts but we still need some additional support, so as always the plea is if you know of anyone that may be interested let me know.

In November the Beavers took part in the annual Beaver Collage Competition in memory of our former Beaver Leader and Group Scout Leader, Pauline Armstrong, and

I'm delighted to say our Beavers won again. Pauline's daughter Becky is one of our Squirrel leaders now and Pauline would be so delighted that the family's connection to the group has continued.

I was incredibly humbled and honoured in June to be awarded the British Empire Medal in the Kings birthday honours for my contribution to Scouting, to Beaver Scouts and work with the wider District and County Teams. I have been incredibly privileged over the last 30+ years to be able to be part of the journey of so many young people in Scouting and with the support of the many leaders and parents throughout that time. A very humbling experience, thank you to everyone who has supported me.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, we love being part of the community, thank you.

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer *From The Revd Ryan McKeon*

The bible study fellowship has continued over the last year and has been well attended. We meet over a meal and share in conversation and joy before studying. We have studied the books of Ruth and Esther, over Advent, we looked at the mother Mary, and coming up for Lent we will be looking at the Gospel of John. This fellowship has met together bi-weekly at the curate's house. There is always space for more people, and depending on volunteers and space to meet, growth for other groups to spring up is possible. The Church studies meet usually in Advent and Lent, the theme or books studied usually relate to the theme of the liturgical season. These studies are included in this report as they follow the pattern of the bible reading fellowship, albeit weekly rather than bi-weekly. This change was introduced because meetings in the church were poorly attended. Meeting at the curate's house has greatly increased attendance

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;
- (c) an actual communicant;
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).

Agenda

1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1

2) Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

Agenda

- 1) Apologies**
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 2**
- 3) Matters arising**
- 4) Election of**
 - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)**
 - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**
 - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers** under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.
- 5) Appointment of Auditor**
- 6) Report on the proceedings of the Church Council**
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) Treasurer's Report Accounts attached in appendix 3**
 - a. Examination of audited accounts**
 - b. Statement of funds & property** no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.
- 8) Fabric Report** A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.
- 9) Chairman's Report** to be presented as a review of the year during the service
- 10) Any Other Business** – To be notified at the start of the meeting

Appendix 1. Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2024 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The Parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2023 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mr Antony (Tony) Roberts and Mr Nigel Welch.

All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 17th March 2024 During 10am Service in Church

Minutes of Meeting

Present & Apologies

Present: There were 28 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan (Chair)

Apologies: Bonnie Brinn, Jeanette, Nigel & David Welch.

Annual General Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting

Revd J. McGowan opened the meeting in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) held on 26th March 2023

The minutes were received as true and correct with no amendments

Proposed by: Lesley Crawford

Seconded by: Marjorie Rochester

All in attendance agreed & the minutes were duly signed by Revd J. McGowan

Matters Arising

The PCC secretary was away on holiday at the time of the meeting, so the APCM was recorded as part of the live stream of the service and these made at a later date.

2. Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations received

- Nr Nigel Welch
- Mr Anthony Charles Roberts

There being no other nominations both nominations were accepted:

All in attendance agreed & therefore both nominations were duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Revd J. McGowan opened the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation rules of 2021 & advised that there would not be any spoken/verbal presentation of reports as they were all contained within the APCM printed booklet (see attached)

Minutes of the previous APCM held on 17th March 2024

The minutes were received as true and correct with no amendments

Proposed by: Lesley Crawford

Seconded by: Marjorie Rochester

The minutes were agreed by all & duly signed by Revd J. McGowan

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising

. Election of:

a) Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

Margaret Green and Rachel Gill were elected in 2023 and so no new representatives were needed as their terms continue.

Agreed by all

b) Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

There was one nomination:

- Anne Henderson

Agreed by all unanimously

c) Sidespersons/Welcomers

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2021 M6(6)

5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Jane Makepeace examined 2022 accounts and has agreed to stand again as Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2024.

Proposed – Margaret Reid

Seconded – Tim Bradbury

This position was unanimously agreed by all

6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These reports were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this booklet to be taken as such a report (see attached).

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no comments or questions

7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts (Jan-Dec 2023)

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC meeting & were then independently examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is in the booklet (attached). These will also be available online (after the service today). Tim Bradbury, Treasurer gave an update/overview of Finances: Tim noted that we face challenging times. In particular, our new utility contracts began which will see a significant increase in our costs.

The Parish has offered to pay £20,000 in Parish Share this, this is reduction but will still be a significant challenge.

7b. Statement of Funds & Property

Revd J McGowan advised the Church Log Books, Terrier & Inventory and accounts were available to view & all were invited to ask any questions or comment on Church assets/property.

There were no questions or comments.

8. Fabric Report

JMcG gave a quick summary update of the proposed works to include a new and refurbished toilets and vestry area. There were no questions or comments.

9. Chairman's Report

This is in the form of the Introduction & Vicars Report which is also included in the booklet (see attached). There was nothing else to add to what was written in the Chairman's Report & all were invited for comments or to ask questions. There were no questions or comments.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business. There being no other business Revd J. McGowan closed the meeting & announced: **NEXT PCC MEETING: Wednesday 25th April 2024 in Vicarage at 7pm**

Appendix 3 Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2024, together with the financial statements for 2024. *NB at the time of printing, these*

statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are 'received' and then are later 'approved' at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before the 31st May 2025 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.

Employee Pensions Liability

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) December 2024 Year End

The Parish participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

This followed improvements in the funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025. For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Assets

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

32 Auburn Gardens

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for

the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent, and the Bishop of Newcastle. As noted earlier, the PCC will need carefully consider the future of this asset and it make a decision between repair and refurbishment or replacement in the near future.

Account Summary

Paxton	Assets and Liabilities Report - December 2024	Page 1 of 1
Charity no. 1184511		
St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham fund codes consolidated		Printed: 17/02/2025
Month = December 2024		
All fund codes consolidated		
	<u>Value</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Cash Funds		
Bank current account	7,781.23	11,493.86
Bank savings account	8,880.85	3,430.65
CBF 1	879.86	879.86
CBF2	2,970.09	2,970.09
	-----	-----
	20,512.03	18,774.46
	-----	-----
Net assets/liabilities	20,512.03	18,774.46

Multiple Fund Receipts and Payment Report - December 2024

Paxton
Charity no. 1184511
St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Page 1 of 3

Printed: 18/02/2025

December 2024 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKI</u>	<u>Development</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Voluntary Receipts										
Donations received	7,083.53	0.00	500.00	0.00	8,195.00	15,468.45	0.00	3,135.48	49.00	34,431.46
Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Collections	699.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	704.11
Charity Collections	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.00
Planned Giving	18,844.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,844.00
Gift aid tax received	8,564.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,564.73
Grants received	3,510.50	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	37,613.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,124.32
	<u>38,737.87</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>45,808.82</u>	<u>15,473.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,140.48</u>	<u>49.00</u>	<u>113,709.62</u>
Receipts from Fundraising Activities										
Fundraising income	63.00	0.00	2,081.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	2,189.90
	<u>63.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,081.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>45.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,189.90</u>
Receipts from Charitable Activities										
Fees	4,472.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,472.98
Rent	1,355.00	4,200.00	14,761.45	0.00	0.00	335.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,651.45
Charitable Activity Receipts	656.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	656.00
Cafe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,207.60	17,166.15	0.00	0.00	18,373.75
Choir subs										

Concert income	756.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,468.00
	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,376.05	252.00	366.80	0.00	8,131.85
	<u>7,376.98</u>	<u>4,200.00</u>	<u>14,761.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,630.65</u>	<u>17,418.15</u>	<u>366.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>53,754.03</u>
Receipts from Investments										
Interest received	169.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	182.20
	<u>169.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>182.20</u>
Other Receipts										
Miscellaneous receipts	1,174.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	1,214.94
	<u>1,174.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>	<u>1,214.94</u>
Fundraising Costs										
Charitable Donations	663.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	663.00
	<u>(663.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(663.00)</u>
Charitable Activities Costs										
Heat, Light and Power	14,396.34	232.99	10,739.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,368.83
Maintenance	6,005.48	200.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	416.64	0.00	0.00	705.38	7,543.50
Hall Maintenance	0.00	0.00	510.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	510.80
Grounds Maintenance	485.84	0.00	0.00	6,929.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,414.99
Insurance	0.00	307.05	0.00	10,234.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,541.44
Development	3,697.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,810.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,507.98
Worship	4,737.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	316.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,054.39
Diocesan fees	1,770.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,770.00
Parish Share	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Clergy Expenses	568.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	568.03

Council Tax	2,752.05	2,037.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,789.42
Water rates	1,196.16	751.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,947.78
Volunteer expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	988.76	0.00	0.00	988.76
Cafe expenses	303.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,956.36	0.00	0.00	6,259.52
Office costs	1,400.49	0.00	456.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,856.99
Printing & stationery	1,784.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,784.52
Music expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,282.61	0.00	10,097.00	0.00	26,379.61
	<u>(54,097.16)</u>	<u>(3,529.03)</u>	<u>(11,706.80)</u>	<u>(17,163.54)</u>	<u>(41,026.61)</u>	<u>(17,015.92)</u>	<u>(6,945.12)</u>	<u>(10,097.00)</u>	<u>(705.38)</u>	<u>(162,286.56)</u>
Governance Costs										
Sum up charges	825.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	825.67
Bank charges	339.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	339.06
	<u>(1,164.73)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,164.73)</u>
Other Costs										
Miscellaneous costs	5,198.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,198.83
	<u>(5,198.83)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(5,198.83)</u>
Transfers										
Transfers between funds	4,750.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,750.50)	0.00	0.00
	<u>(4,750.50)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,750.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net receipts/payments	<u>(18,352.23)</u>	<u>670.97</u>	<u>5,636.55</u>	<u>(7,163.54)</u>	<u>4,782.21</u>	<u>8,101.18</u>	<u>10,518.03</u>	<u>(1,839.22)</u>	<u>(616.38)</u>	<u>1,737.57</u>
Cash funds at start of year	389.40	1,275.85	3,516.99	(7,178.46)	3,000.00	6,345.56	6,291.66	1,543.89	3,589.57	18,774.46
Cash funds at end of year	<u>(17,962.83)</u>	<u>1,946.82</u>	<u>9,153.54</u>	<u>(14,342.00)</u>	<u>7,782.21</u>	<u>14,446.74</u>	<u>16,809.69</u>	<u>(295.33)</u>	<u>2,973.19</u>	<u>20,512.03</u>

Accounts



The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham

Annual Meetings 2024

& Reports of our parish life in 2023



www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023

&

Annual Parochial Church meetings 2024

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2023. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on the 17th March 2024 as part of the main 10am service.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

Following a personally turbulent 2022, I began 2023 once again with time 'off sick' as I finally made it to the top of the list for my COVID delayed eye surgery. The Parish was diligently cared for by Ryan, Nicky, Margaret and Tony.

It was also the year I finally reached 'middle age' and turned 40(!), and in true mid-life crisis mode, I took delivery of a 'new to me' motorbike to replace my aging old Moto-Guzzi and went on a pilgrimage to the grave of James and Basil Knott in Ypres and onward to the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela.

The Revd Ryan McKeon and I travelled overseas to the Diocese of Sodor and Man to lead a retreat day in May. There we not only reconnected with friends from my former parish, but we discovered again how large a footprint Js & Bs has had through the years as we encountered people who were taught to ring bells in the tower here in Fenham, and the Chancellor and Vicar General (also the Legislator to the Attorney General on the Isle of Man), who was prepared for confirmation within our own vestry! I formed new links with colleagues in the Diocese of More in Norway as part of a research project in church growth and development with the Church of Norway, and following my visit there in August, we were pleased to welcome a group here to Fenham before our onward trip to the Diocese of Southwark in October.

The year was a year of change and transition for a number of reasons... not just my age. Our APCM saw a change in Churchwarden as Nicky Walter stepped down following her move out to the coast. Nicky helped to guide the parish through final years of my predecessor, an interregnum, a global pandemic and more. I am thankful to have had such a good partner in life here in the ups and downs of life. Margaret Cutting kindly agreed to serve another year in order to help the transition to a new 'team'. Tim and Jeanette continued for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively, giving a further season of continuity in a changing context.

We anticipated 2023 being a challenging year, and it was. The turbulence and war in Europe (and from the autumn, also in Israel) continued to challenge our understanding of humanity, and perhaps securing our resolve to be a people of hope, even though it seemed that there was little we could do.

The financial markets, and in particular utility costs, have had a significant impact on our ability be as creative - not to mention, warm - as might have liked, and as a Church Council, we're thankful for those who have helped out financially, and also those who have stuck with us despite freezing temperatures.

As always, these pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish: the challenges and the successes and perhaps also woven in the reports, there is something of our relationships, hopes and dreams too – these are the jewels and the treasure* that continues to shine even if they sometimes seem lost, or hidden from sight.

James ~ 7th March 2024 Commemoration Billfrith – Jeweller of the Lindisfarne Gospels

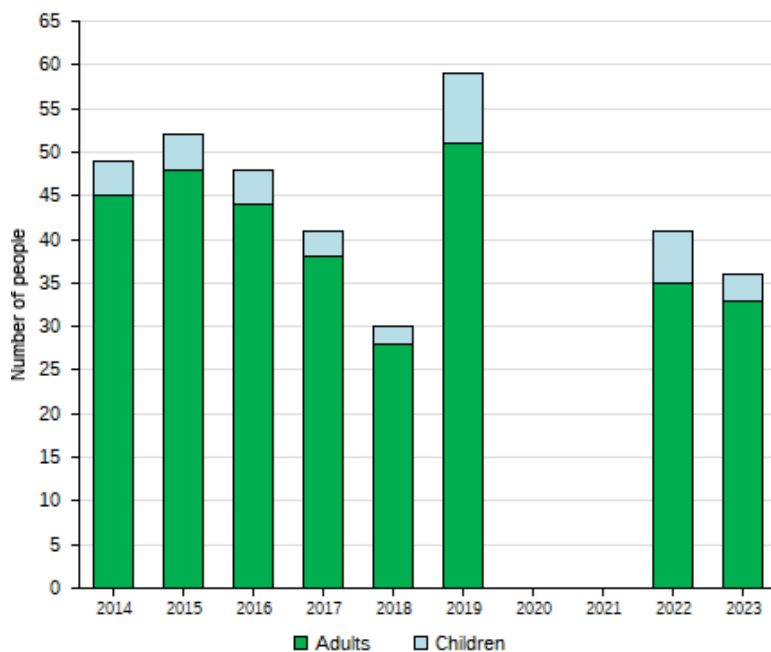
* Bilfrith was a hermit of Lindisfarne and a skilled worker in jewels and precious metals.

When the pages of the Lindisfarne Gospels had been written and painted they were bound in leather by Bishop Aethelweald, who then asked Billfrith to make a pattern of jewels embedded in the outer cover of the book. It must have been rather sumptuous, because at the Reformation the cover with its jewels disappeared. Who got it, we wonder? Although we know little in detail about Bilfrith, his story remind us of the great numbers of hermits in the history of the Church, and of their importance in keeping alive the ideals of austerity, devoted prayer and spiritual warfare

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 78 (2022 = 79)

1. Usual Sunday Attendance, (2014-2023)



The Usual Sunday Attendance figure in 2023 included those who attended our 10am Services. (Information was not collated to include the attendance at the African Chaplaincy Services or Evening Prayer as it was in 2022). This collation has restarted from January 2024)

In 2023 our 10am services continued to be streamed online and average numbers of those joining in were between 6-12.

Easter Day 2023

2022 = Attendance in the Parish – 55 (not including the African Chaplaincy)

2022 = Attendance in the Parish - 111

2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

2020 = Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

Christmas 2023 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2023 – 390

Attendance in the Parish 2022 – 297

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174*

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes ‘non average’ attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. This figure does include the African Chaplaincy

2019 = 74

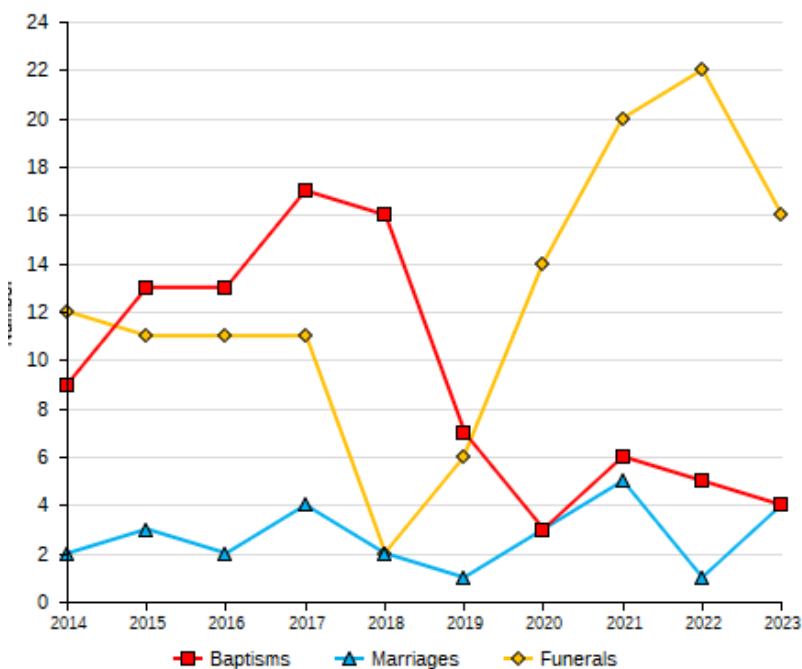
2020 = 44

2021 = 39

2022 = 42

2023

Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2014-2023)



In 2023 4 weddings, 16 funerals and 4 baptisms were held in the Parish.

These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Administration, publicity and website.

In 2023 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary).

Administration in the parish is a significant task and we remain thankful to those who help out with small jobs to share the load around a little.

Our online presence continues as our virtual ‘shop window’ to both the local community and further afield. In 2023, our webpage was accessed 23,535 times by 8,299 unique users, this is broadly the same as in 2022. Our website is due for a renewal and we hope to launch a new site in the spring of 2024.

Our Facebook community ended the year with over 900 people ‘following’ us, this represents a significant growth on the 2022 figures.

In the late summer of 2022, the parish began using a new data management tool *iKnowChurch* to help with diary bookings and events and to start bringing our various mailing lists together. This tool is also the Church of England's preferred software for dealing with administration relating to Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings (following the introduction of the Marriage and Civil Partnership Act 2022). We will also start using *iKnowChurch* for e-ticketing and our public calendars once a new website is live.

The African Chaplaincy From The Revd Osaro Omobude

The group gathered every Sunday at 2 pm in the parish for Liturgical service and fellowship. The attendees comprise of Africans and friends of Africans from all age groups, ranging from less than a year old to 85 years old, with an average attendance of 12 people per Sunday. The service and fellowship attract people from both near and far, including regular attendees from Hebburn near Jarrow and Billington near Morpeth.

In January 2023, the group was fortunate to receive a grant of £2600 from the "Church Institute Charity of Newcastle Diocese". The grant was meant to provide musical activities and promote well-being during such activities.

The group was able to organize a day trip to Holy Island in Northumberland on Easter Monday, 2023. It was a day of Easter celebration with music and food.

In the summer of 2023 (July), the group organized a musical event with an African flavour in the church building. Everyone was welcome, and around 50 people attended the event.

The last Sunday before Christmas 2023 was a Christmas carols event with celebration. However, on the 7th of January 2024, due to the cold weather and the condition of the church building, the group decided to put the service of 2 pm on hold until the spring of 2024. Instead, they decided to join the 10 am Eucharist.

Café & Fenham Markets from Vicky Pitt

In April 2023, we reopened the cafe after the Easter break with a new leadership and bit of a revamp. We went back to 'The Cafe', revised costs and pricing structures, added some new touches like name labels and menu boards.

The cafe operates from 10am to 1pm on Thursdays, the Jellyfish & Bees music group operates from 9.30am to 10.30am with Paige, we have on average 10 children a week plus parents and sometimes up to 15 or more. The group is a suggested donation

system and unfortunately rarely covers its cost, however everyone does stay and uses the cafe facilities, so we have increased revenue when the music group is on. We get a flurry of customers after the fitness group and art classes which take place in the hall, and it is a regular meet up for many people in the community. The cafe still relies heavily on volunteers to run, we now operate with 3 people on the cafe serving and an additional person to operate the payments as much as possible to keep up with demand.

We reintroduced soup in October with the purchase of a new heated cabinet, and we also added a 'posh' coffee machine enabling us to serve cappuccinos and lattes at the press of a button. We felt it important that moving to the posh coffees was easy and that everyone could do it. Both the soup and posh coffees has increased profit and the weekly turnover is up year on year.

We are set to lose a few volunteer hours this coming year, so we are on the lookout for more help. The cafe closes for 2 weeks at Christmas and Easter and we have decided to close for the month of August this year as it is very quiet historically and volunteers are thin on the ground due to school holidays, children and grandchildren. Concerts refreshments prove profitable on a donation basis and again are run by volunteers. We are looking to streamline the offering of refreshments at events and concerts to ensure profitability and professionalism at all times.

Markets made a comeback post covid with a bang in 2023 with 3 spring/summer markets plus a Christmas offering. We started with about 6/8 stalls and now we have waiting lists to get a space. We run these from inside the church and weather permitting stall holders choose to be inside or outside. We run the cafe from 10 till 3 on these days and they are very profitable for us. Along with the revenue generated from stall holders it has been a huge success. Running these markets in house means the church gets all monies and none is lost to an organiser. In 2024 we have 6 markets booked in with commitments from all our regular stall holders. We are also having a Christmas market which again is already fully booked by stall holders. In summary the cafe/events are going from strength to strength and is a good source of regular income. The question is where / what next?

Children and Young People

Whilst we regularly have children and young people present in church, these are often small in number and in the absence of a regular group of people to prepare and lead anything specifically for this age group, the number attending is often very low. This is a priority area to address and the joining together of our 10am Congregation and the

African Congregation might provide an opportunity to seek to re-establish something more intentional in 2024.

Our 'special' services (for example, Harvest & Christmas), saw large numbers of family groups attending, perhaps suggesting a desire by families to keep some contact with us, even if they cannot be here very often.

'Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs' (our early years, weekly music session) ran throughout the year. As children grew older, numbers tailed off towards the summer, but we were pleased to welcome increasing number of new babies and toddlers in the autumn.

Deanery Synod Report

Rachel Gill and Margaret Green continue to represent the parish on the Newcastle West Deanery Synod following their re-election at the last APCM.

The Deanery Synod resolved to reduce the number of meetings from four per year, to three – one per academic term. As has been custom, it continues to meet in a different venue each time. Our meetings begin with business and conclude with a short 15 minutes service of compline at 8:30pm – with 'lights – out' at 9pm.

The Focus for the 2023 meetings was continued discussion regarding the Deanery Development Plan. This process is reviewing the current pattern of ministry across the diocese and the Plan produced will be used to inform future appointments and pastoral reorganisation. Whilst it will always be something of a working document, it highlight (and perhaps also celebrated) our great diversity as a deanery and collection of parishes.

The Vicar continues to work as Area Dean, supporting parishes in vacancy or moments of need as requested and working alongside the Bishop and Archdeacon in a 'lite-touch' oversight of the churches in the area.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every 6 years the Electoral Roll is renewed & the next renewal will take place in 2025. All members names will be removed from the Roll and everyone who wishes to be on the new one has to complete an application form. New forms will be available in church for several weeks before the 2025 APCM which will probably be in the March. There are instructions on the forms as to how members not resident in the Parish should complete the forms if they have been unable to attend worship in the preceding 6 months.

This year we welcome 4 new members, Terry Boyle, Alex Bell, Malcolm Macourt & Helen Wilson. As they have enrolled as members by 3 March, 2 full weeks before the APCM on 17 March, they will be able to vote at the APCM. Any one else eligible to be

on the Roll can still join after this date but they cannot vote until the 2025 APCM. Some members are no longer able to attend because of distance & have resigned from the Roll. We thank Ian Gumm for his service as church warden some years ago & Nicki Walters for her long membership & service up until recently as church warden. We remember with love those who have died, Doreen Wardropper & June Brogan. With the loss of these members & the 4 new ones we now have 78 members on the Electoral Roll.

Engagement with Schools

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2023. In the Summer Term the Vicar and Curate ran The Archbishop of York's Young Leadership Programme in the Junior School as an after school club for a group 8 year students, and they continued to conduct Collective Worship when requested and Officiate at the half termly Evensong held in church on the penultimate Friday of each term.

We welcomed school curriculum visits from Dame Allan's Junior School, Wingrove Primary School and we visited the senior school to support their Religious Studies Curriculum.

At the end of the Summer term, the Vicar resigned from the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust) after four years on the board. He continued as a Director of the Pele Academy Trusts, whose schools serve the outer west of the city, Ponteland and it's surrounding villages, and following an expansion at the very end of the year, John Spence Community High in North Shields and The Duchess's Community High School in Alnwick.

Fabric

No significant works were undertaken in 2023. Some minor repairs and maintenance were carried out.

Church

As in previous years, routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ was tuned towards the end of the year by Woods of Huddersfield.

Following the success of 'Tidy-up Tuesdays' in the summer of 2022, in the summer of 2023, our 'Working Wednesdays, gave a time to catch up on some housekeeping, and our volunteers assisted with clearing, cleaning and polishing!

Following the death of our previous consulting architect, Mr Ian Lucas, in 2022, the PCC were pleased to appoint Ms Kal Gill-Faci of the Gately/SmithersPurslow partnership as our new architect. Kal works from her office in Manchester, but the company has

surveyors based in Team Valley. Kal visited Fenham in the early summer to inspect the site and catch up with our recent thoughts on development.

Fabric – Hall (including hall users)

Routine servicing continued in 2023. Our regular users continued to meet and activities included an after school Children’s Drama Group, Zumba classes, daytime exercise groups and yoga, an art group for children who are homeschooled, the local History Society, English and Maths Tuition, early morning weekend yoga and our resident Scout Group the 82nd Newcastle.

Our two studio spaces (the Upper Room and the Basement) continue to be home to two local businesses. The basement is occupied by Derek Farrell and is home to his joinery workshop. Derek is much in demand locally, but offers his workshop to the community on a Saturday morning and is often around to offer a loan of tools or tips, advice and guidance. Derek has supported the parish through his offer of time and labour to help carry out some routine maintenance and work. Towards the end of 2023, Derek extended his use of the space by creating a ‘mini workshop’ in the Old Kitchen in the hall that allowed a second space for smaller projects to be completed.

The Upper Room remained the home of Petals & Power, a local floristry and art studio run by Vicky Foreshaw. Vicky also runs several workshops and groups throughout the week in her studio and offers some of her time to the parish through her talent and time.

The redevelopment of the Parish Hall– initially conceived pre COVID-19, but on hold since – should remain a priority. However, a changing financial context and community use may well mean that in 2024, the Parish will revisit this project anew.

Finance

The Parish continues to pay its way – though we run on ever increasingly narrow margins. Our parish share offer was reduced by the PCC in 2023 to reflect the anticipated challenges that we were facing with utility costs towards the end of the year. The Parish Share is a contribution to the provision of clergy across the diocese – in our parish in 2023, the provision of clergy was ‘subsidised’ by over £30,000 from contributions from other parishes and the national church. This is the only cost that is covered by the ‘Church of England’; all other expenses must be found locally within the parish. Js & Bs is often perceived to be a ‘wealthy’ parish due to our relatively high cash turnover – in reality we have no real investments, endowments or historic assets like many of our neighbouring parishes. We spend a lot, because we have a lot going on here, and our practice continues to be one balancing income generating activity with free services and activities in order that finance might not be a barrier to people joining

in. Our accounts at the end of 2023 show the lowest end of year balance for many years and reflect the challenging times that we're in.

Gardens

In 2023 The Church Gardens continued to be a valuable asset shared with the community. Our paid gardener, Penny Hunter continued to work with volunteers to manage the gardens throughout the year. It was with some sadness that we received news of one of Penny's co-workers, Emma, who was involved in a serious accident resulting in a brain injury; by the end of the year Emma was still recovering, through progress has been slow – we look forward to seeing her back around sometime in 2024.

Another one of regular volunteers – Kim Cargill – started making preparations to leave us at the year end as she continued to explore a new life as part of the Order of The Holy Paraclete in Whitby.

By the end of the year, we finally took delivery of two new memorial benches to commemorate two significant members of our congregation. The families of Margaret Johnson and Eunice Davidson both donated benches in their memory to mark their life and work in the parish over many years.

Godly Play

We continue to hold a large stock of Godly Play resources and these continue to be used on occasional school visits, and also on some occasion during our church services. With nobody here to run regular sessions, these paused in the late spring of 2022 and did not restart throughout 2023.

Hospitality

As always, the parish mission continues to place a high priority on its mission to create space for all whether through services, events, concerts or simply over coffee and food. Of note, was an increase in our shared lunches after services. During the spring and summer and part of the autumn we aimed to have a lunch together once a month. These times included shared lunches in church on a Sunday Morning, gatherings in the local pub after Sunday Communion for lunch together, a picnic in the Vicarage Garden or a fish and chips delivered in perfect time as the final hymn note sounded – creating opportunity just be together as we share a little more of our lives together.

Jazz @ Js & Bs *from Tony Roberts*

We put on five concerts in 2023 during the summer and although the weather was not very kind we managed to have two in the garden. They were return visits by pianist

Dean Stockdale and vocalist Lindsay Hannon. Concerts inside the church were with American trumpet player and singer Pete Tanton, drummer Abbie Finn and a great concert with Jan Spencelayh vocalist from Hartlepool.

Liturgy & Worship

Morning and evening prayer and Midweek Eucharist from The Revd Ryan McKeon
The act of meeting together to pray morning and evening prayer was reestablished when the curate first turned up, the timings have changed recently to reflect the changing patterns. Most of the time it is just the parish clergy who meet to pray but everyone is welcome to attend if they are around or would value praying as a group. People still come in to the church to light candles and leave notes for things they would like prayer for. These are prayed at the next service of Morning or evening prayer.

The midweek Eucharist was well attended at first, attaching it own group of people who valued the early morning shorter service or for whom due to commitment Sunday attendance was unlikely. Of late, the service has been poorly attended. And so, a conversation will need to be had regarding times that are appropriate for people midweek and whether a change is needed.

Sunday Services and Occasional Offices from The Revd James McGowan

We started the year continuing with our practice of producing individual service booklets for each week. However, mindful of our need to be good stewards of our resources, we moved back to seasonal booklets with individual service sheets produced for special events and services.

Our 10am Sunday services continued to be streamed online. Though we changed platforms away from Vimeo to YouTube. Vimeo was reliable, but it was also expensive and whilst this had been sponsored in recent years, as we returned to life much closer to our pre-pandemic pattern, the use of the service continued to reduce. We retained the option of being able to stream to families on private pages if requested.

Services continued to accompanied by a mix of the St James Consort, visiting organists and some of the choir who call Js & Bs their home. By the summer it was felt that there was enough interest to re-form a Sunday Morning 'house' choir that would help lead our service once a month. This continued to meet through the autumn term and as the year ended it was hoped that this might become a much more familiar feature of our monthly pattern of services.

Music *From Simon Davies Fidler*

This year the organ duties on Sunday mornings have continued to be split between Robin and Paul, with singing from the St James' Consort on the first Sunday of the month. In the latter part of the year an 'in-house' choir (yet to be named) began singing on the third Sunday of month and formed the core of a choir for our Christmas Eve service. In January Simon stepped down from his role as Director of Music and we are grateful to Paul for taking over the choir.

The church continues to be the base for several choirs and music groups. J's & B's Singers continues to grow, now with around 80 singers who perform in our three concerts a year. This year's Christmas concert was a particular highlight with a programme of music for choir and brass ensemble which was very well received by a large audience. It was gratifying to note that our Christmas events were back to pre-Covid levels of audience numbers.

Jellyfish & Bees, our Thursday morning children's singing group continues to be a popular service for local families.

Voices of Hope, Fenham Ensemble and The Morning Chorus continue to use the church or hall, for rehearsals and concerts.

Newcastle Phoenix Choir continues to meet on Friday afternoons in the church/hall. During the year they performed several times - alongside The Morning Chorus in concert, in a service of Remembrance at Brunswick Methodist Church and in the homelessness awareness service at J's & B's. At the moment the choir is preparing for a concert in Hexham, in which it will perform alongside other local choirs. More than 50 singers have attended choir, with around 30 coming regularly.

The church continues to be a popular choice for musicians looking to perform their music. We welcomed many of our regular groups back and also enjoyed debut visits from Vox Populi and Steve Jinski amongst others.

Equipment and Resources In 2023 some new items included,

- 1) a replacement 'hot tap' (providing boiling water) in the church kitchen
- 2) portable lighting in some parts of the church
- 3) 6 electric patio heaters to be used in church
- 4) a used grand piano for the church hall

Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As the official 'Benefice Property', maintenance of the Vicarage remains the responsibility of the Diocese, day to day running costs are met by the Vicarage Household.

As reported for a fifth consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. (This has been apparent during a number of PCC meetings when the electric supply in the dining room has 'sparked' and caused burn marks on the carpet!).

Attempted repairs to the guttering were only partially successful and there is still a leak in at the side of the house causing damp and moss to build up.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. The significant rise in gas markets towards the end of the year saw gas bills in excess of £500 per month during the winter – this provided a limited number of hours of heat each day and often to a maximum just 16 degrees. This is noted for the record as this extra burden not faced by some clergy households in more modern or efficient vicarages in effect meant a reduction in stipend for the incumbent here, (all parish clergy in the diocese receive the same 'package in terms of payment, pension and the provision of an official house).

In the spring of 2023, the diocese funded extra heating controls to allow most rooms to be heated independently. This was a short term fix to manage heating costs as parts of the house were closed off and consequently began suffering with a lack of heat and ventilation. Secondary Glazing was installed in three ground floor rooms in the April 2023 (the Study, main living room and Dining Room), and also in the main bedroom in September 2023. As the year ended these changes did appear to be having a positive impact. It is hoped that in 2024 some further rooms will receive secondary glazing. By the year end work had begun to replace the main entrance gate (some five years after it had been intended).

On a more positive note, the arrival of Chickens in the Vicarage Garden in April added life to a redundant and unused 'hidden space' which benefited the Church Café through provision of organic, low 'food miles' eggs when production allowed, (and a lunch for the Fenham Fox towards the end of the year!).

The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space. The house is due for its 5 yearly inspection in 2024.

32 Auburn Gardens

The house is owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens and under the terms of a trust deed, retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish.

The works to the first floor (started at the very end of 2022) were largely completed by the spring and Ryan McKeon (curate) moved into the property in March. The work included changes to the first floor layout to create a 'family bathroom' rather than a separate WC and very small bathroom. A window was enlarged and replaced at the back of the house to create a third 'small' double bedroom rather than the former layout of two doubles and a single – the space being taken from a very large landing area. Minor repairs to the chimney stack were also carried out to try and stop the ingress of water into the front bedroom. The works were financed by a loan from the Diocese repaid in monthly payments by a reduction in rental income for the duration of Ryan's curacy.

The house is likely to require a new kitchen before a tenant can take possession if the parish will realize a full market income at the end of Ryan's tenure.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of upmost importance

Health and Safety

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, we continue to review risk assessments for activities and events.

Safeguarding - from Margaret Green, Parish Safeguarding Officer

In the parish safeguarding handbook the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby says safeguarding is at the heart of the Christian faith & it is the action the church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches. To achieve this the welfare of children, young people & adults will be promoted by working to prevent abuse from occurring, responding well to those who have been abused & also identify & give support where a person may present a risk to others & take steps to mitigate such risks. By safe recruitment for people working or volunteering with children & adults it is hoped to reduce this risk & case histories shown on the training courses on this subject are useful.

Safe guarding Policies & procedures for the Anglican Church are outlined nationally by the House of Bishops & can be seen in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, a copy of which is displayed on the church notice board . Carol Butler is the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor & she or members of her team are constantly in touch with any new issues & instructions. Any serious concerns are reported to her. Safeguarding is

always on the agenda of PCC meetings & policies agreed upon by the PCC are reviewed as necessary

All members of the PCC, as trustees of the church, & anyone in close contact with children, young people & vulnerable adults, are subject to DBS checks, (the Disclosure & Baring Service) every 5 years & those checked in this way have to attend training courses, on line initially & then in groups, either face to face or on Zoom thereafter. Information about safeguarding & useful numbers can be seen on the churchh notice board & website, - jamesbasilfenham.org. uk. & my name as Safeguarding Officer is on the Sunday pew sheet.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader

As always, we have had a busy year busy year for the Scout group, our numbers continue to be healthy and there is always a waiting list for young people to join Beavers and start their Scouting journey with us. In September we were joined by Squirrels, the youngest and newest section in Scouting aged 4 to 6 years old. We were very fortunate when we put the call out for leaders for the section to get 3 people come forward to take on the role which was shortly after enhanced with another adult. It is a delight to have the Squirrels and their leaders join our Scouting family, the section is proving popular with a waiting list to join.

In the summer we had our annual Group Camp at Moor House Adventure Centre near Durham. It was a busy camp with everyone having a fab time. It is always so lovely having young people spending the weekend together, enjoying the activities, Scouts cooking for themselves and of course coming together for Camp fire. In October we had hoped to repeat the Expedition camp for Scouts at Dilston near Corbridge to complete their Expedition Challenge, unfortunately this was cancelled due to the camping being water logged and has been rescheduled for this coming April.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. Our Scout leaders are working hard to offer a fantastic programme to the Scouts but we still need some additional support, so as always the plea is if you know of anyone that may be interested let me know. Kate & Liam have now achieved and been awarded their Wood badges making them fully trained Scout leaders, a sign of their ongoing commitment to Scouting and the young people.

In November the Beavers took part in the annual Beaver Collage Competition in memory of our former Beaver Leader and Group Scout Leader, Pauline Armstrong, and I'm delighted to say our Beavers won. Pauline's daughter Becky is one of our Squirrel leaders now and Pauline would be so delighted that the family's connection to the group has continued.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, we love being part of the community, thank you.

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer *From The Revd Ryan McKeon*

The bible study fellowship was introduced late last year and has been well attended. We meet together over a meal and share in conversation and joy before studying together. We have switched between studying themes, and studying books of the bible. We have looked at the theme of Fellowship, the book of Isaiah, and studied the sacraments, the word, and why we engage in mission and evangelism. This fellowship has met together bi-weekly at the curate's house. There is always space for more people, and depending on volunteers and space to meet, growth for other groups to spring up is possible.

The Church studies meet usually in advent and lent, the theme or books studied usually relate to the theme of the liturgical season; Advent, we looked at the prophecy of Isaiah related to the coming messiah, and in lent we have looked at those typical Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving. These have been added to this report as the latest lent study has been following the pattern of the bible reading fellowship, albeit weekly rather than bi-weekly. This change was introduced because meeting in church were poorly attended. Because of this the most recent lent study has been well attended and warm!

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and*
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.*

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- (c) an actual communicant;*
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;*
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).*

Agenda

1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1

2) Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting *Appendix 2*
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Election of
 - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)
 - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*
- 5) Appointment of Auditor
- 6) Report on the proceedings of the Church Council
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) Treasurer's Report *Accounts attached in appendix 3*
 - a. Examination of audited accounts
 - b. Statement of funds & property *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) Fabric Report *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.*
- 9) Chairman's Report *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) Any Other Business – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

Appendix 1. Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2023 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mr Antony (Tony) Roberts and Mrs Margaret Cutting.
All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 26th March 2023

During 10am Service in Church

Minutes of Meeting

Present & Apologies

Present: There were 25 members of the Electoral Roll present (see attached signatory list) including Revd James McGowan (Chair)

Apologies: Bonnie Brinn, David Welch

Annual General Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

Revd J. McGowan opened the meeting in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) held on 10th April 2022

The minutes were received as true and correct with no amendments

Proposed by: Rachel Gill

Seconded by: Lesley Crawford

All in attendance agreed & the minutes were duly signed by Revd J. McGowan

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

2. Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations received

- Mrs Margaret Cutting
- Mr Anthony Charles Roberts

There being no other nominations both nominations were:

Proposed by: Tim Bradbury

Seconded by: Joanne Ayre

All in attendance agreed & therefore both nominations were duly elected.

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Revd J. McGowan opened the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation rules of 2021 & advised that there would not be any spoken/verbal presentation of reports as they were all contained within the APCM printed booklet (see attached)

Minutes of the previous APCM held on 10th April 2022

The minutes were received as true and correct with no amendments

Proposed by: Joo Li Ng

Seconded by: Margaret Reid

The minutes were agreed by all & duly signed by Revd J. McGowan

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising

1

4. Election of:

a) Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

There were two nominations:

- Rachel Gill
- Margaret Green

Agreed by all

b) Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

There were three nominations:

- Marjorie Rochester
- Jeanette Welch
- Sarah Williamson

Agreed by all

c) Sidespersons/Welcomers

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2021 M6(6)

5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Jane Makepeace examined 2022 accounts and has agreed to stand again as Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2023.

This position was unanimously agreed by all

6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These reports were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this booklet to be taken as such a report (see attached).

Revd J. McGowan also advised the Reports on:

- **Church Bells** Report had only recently been received & therefore will be shared & attached separately.
- **African Worship** Report has NOT yet been received by Revd Osaro Omobude

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no comments or questions

7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts (Jan-Dec 2022)

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC meeting & were then independently examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is in the booklet (attached). These will also be available online (after the service today).

Tim Bradbury, Treasurer gave an update/overview of Finances:

- Major expenditure on Trees in Church Gardens of £3,000
- Gas bill for both Church & Hall combined was in excess of £2,000 per month
- Cash in hand at the beginning of 2023 has fallen by £5,000
- Income from Cafe & Concerts will hopefully increase as the year goes on ●

Gift aid is yet to be reclaimed which always helps the financial position a little Also advised the picture/forecast is not entirely rosy, but not to panic just yet.

Appealed for anyone who doesn't give regularly currently, or who gives but doesn't gift aid & is able to do so, or is able to increase what they give, fully appreciating financial times are hard for everyone, then any increase in giving to the Church would be gratefully received.

e always the leaner. 2

7b. Statement of Funds & Property

Revd J McGowan advised the Church Log Books, Terrier & Inventory and accounts were available to view & all were invited to ask any questions or comment on Church assets/property.

There were no questions or comments.

8. Fabric Report

There is a report included in the booklet (see attached) for the Church & Hall. The Quinquennial Inspection/report 3years ago identified the Flagpole on the Church Tower was an item of significant risk and is now in a condition where it needs to be removed. This was initially going to be a hugely expensive project involving a Building Contractor & scaffolding. However after conducting a skills analysis it was discovered that a Tree Surgeon can undertake the project much cheaper than a Building Contracto, therefore the Flagpole will be removed in the coming weeks.

There were no questions or comments.

9. Chairman's Report

This is in the form of the Introduction & Vicars Report which is also included in the booklet (see attached). There was nothing else to add to what was written in the Chairman's Report & all were invited for comments or to ask questions.

There were no questions or comments.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business

There being no other business Revd J. McGowan closed the meeting &

announced: **NEXT PCC MEETING: Wednesday 26th April 2023 in Vicarage at 7pm**

Appendix 3 Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2023, together with the financial statements for 2022. *NB at the time of printing, these statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are 'received' and then are later 'approved' at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before the 31st May 2023 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.*

Employee Pensions Liability

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) December 2023 Year End

The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers. The Parish participates in the *Pension Builder 2014 Scheme*. *Pension Builder 2014* is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Assets

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

32 Auburn Gardens

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent, and the Bishop of Newcastle.

Account Summary

Paxton	Assets and Liabilities Report - December 2023	Page 1 of 1
All fund codes consolidated		
St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham		Printed: 01/03/2024
<hr/>		
= December 2023		
All fund codes consolidated		
		<u>Value</u>
Cash Funds		
Bank current account	8,072.68	
Bank savings account	3,430.65	
CBF 1	879.86	
CBF2	2,970.09	

		15,353.28
Other Monetary Assets		

		0.00
Investment Assets		

		0.00
Other Tangible Assets		

		0.00
Liabilities		

		0.00
Net assets/liabilities		-----
		15,353.28

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 01/03/2024

December 2023 year to date turnover

Voluntary Receipts

	<u>General</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Donations received	4,090.57	0.00	0.00	600.00	13,253.00	1,700.00	2,473.01	0.00	15.00	22,131.58
Collections	1,046.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,046.18
African communion collection	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Planned Giving	16,834.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,834.00
Gift aid tax received	7,910.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,910.42
Grants received	3,234.17	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,234.17
	33,280.34	10,000.00	0.00	600.00	13,253.00	1,700.00	2,473.01	0.00	15.00	61,321.35

Receipts from Fundraising Activities

Fundraising income	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,924.23	0.00	425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,349.23
	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,924.23	0.00	425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,349.23

Receipts from Charitable Activities

Fees	6,888.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,888.00
Rent	212.50	0.00	3,500.00	17,305.50	1,425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,443.00
Charitable Activity Receipts	443.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	693.00
Cafe	30.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,141.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,171.83
Choir subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,152.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,152.00
Concert income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,428.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,428.73
	7,574.15	0.00	3,500.00	17,305.50	17,005.73	15,391.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,776.56

Receipts from Investments

Interest received	33.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.47
	33.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.47

Other Receipts

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 01/03/2024

December 2023 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Miscellaneous receipts	1,049.78	0.00	1,702.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,751.78
	1,049.78	0.00	1,702.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,751.78
Fundraising Costs										
Social Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.75
Charitable Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	(651.75)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(651.75)
Charitable Activities Costs										
Heat, Light and Power	11,515.58	0.00	236.92	3,941.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,694.20
Maintenance	4,550.75	0.00	718.50	0.00	833.28	154.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,257.01
Hall Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.47
Grounds Maintenance	6,314.08	7,016.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,330.58
Insurance	180.00	9,541.52	245.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,967.16
Development	3,832.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,832.08
Worship	3,469.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,619.87
African communion expenses	2,035.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,035.63
Diocesan fees	3,095.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,095.00
Parish Share	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
Clergy Expenses	648.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	648.92
Council Tax	2,296.93	0.00	2,568.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,865.35
Water rates	491.87	0.00	610.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,102.45
Volunteer expenses	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	264.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	304.00
Cafe expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,617.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,617.78
Office costs	2,685.59	0.00	0.00	445.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,131.09
Printing & stationery	528.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	528.20
Publicity costs	48.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.46
Music expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,105.13	0.00	8,431.38	0.00	0.00	33,536.51
	(61,732.96)	(16,558.02)	(4,380.06)	(4,626.67)	(27,088.41)	(7,036.26)	(8,431.38)	0.00	0.00	(129,853.76)

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 01/03/2024

December 2023 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Governance Costs										
Sum up charges	781.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	799.23
Bank charges	303.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	303.68
	(1,084.92)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(17.99)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,102.91)
Other Costs										
Miscellaneous costs	451.23	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	501.23
	(451.23)	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(501.23)
Transfers										
Transfers between funds	(41,500.00)	0.00	6,000.00	20,500.00	2,365.50	15,000.00	(2,365.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	41,500.00	0.00	(6,000.00)	(20,500.00)	(2,365.50)	(15,000.00)	2,365.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net receipts/payments	20,168.63	(6,558.02)	(5,178.06)	(4,998.69)	804.82	(4,538.07)	(3,592.87)	0.00	15.00	(3,877.26)
Cash funds at start of year	-19,860.86	-620.44	6,453.91	8,065.68	5,540.74	7,940.18	5,136.76	3,000.00	3,574.57	19,230.54
Cash funds at end of year	307.77	-7,178.46	1,275.85	3,066.99	6,345.56	3,402.11	1,543.89	3,000.00	3,589.57	15,353.28



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report on the
accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St James' and St Basil's PCC

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1184511

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Jane Makepeace

Date:

4.3.24

Name:

Jane MAKEPEACE

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Accounts



The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham

Annual Meetings & Reports 2022



www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2022

&

Annual Parochial Church meetings 2023

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2022. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on the 26th March 2023 as part of the main 10am service.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

Despite a lifting of restrictions and a return of missed traditions and events, 2022 was in many ways, a year of turbulence.

I started the year with three months of continued illness following surgery for a ruptured appendix towards the end of 2021, this and the continued COVID restrictions saw a slow start to the year in many ways. The COVID restrictions were finally lifted in April.

The year was personally very challenging as after almost 17 years of marriage my wife and I separated in the early summer, and I readjusted to life as a part-time single parent of two. I am thankful to be in a parish that continue to journey with me without judgement and in friendship – as many of you might have known, life isn't easy when hiding away might be the very thing you want to do, yet this is often beyond possibility; sometimes you hold it together, sometimes you just about manage not to fall apart in despair.

The parish also lost a number of good friends, notably Margaret Johnson who had bravely fought a long battle with Cancer. Margaret had served the parish as a member of the Church Council, in her work for many years managing the Parish Hall and through her efforts to keep our social life active. Her final months saw her embark on personal adventures – ticking off some of her own 'bucket list' as she remained full of grace, dignity, and friendship, (especially if you had a moment to share a G&T). We also paused to mark with love the lives of Joyce Little, Eunice Davidson, Bob Clements and Eric Harrison. Each served the community through friendship, service, love and care.

A highlight of the summer saw the parish welcome a new curate, Ryan McKeon, following his ordination in early July. Ryan came to us after completing his studies at Trinity College in Bristol; his prior home was to be found in Worthing. Initially, he lived with his partner Huw in St Luke's Vicarage in Spittal Tongues and, at the year end we were looking forward to welcoming them into the Curate's House in Fenham in the early months of 2023, (they finally moved in to the house in early March).

As always, I note my thanks to all who share in this wider vision and effort to create a space of open doors and welcome. I particularly recognise the considerable efforts of Nicki and Margaret our Churchwardens; good and faithful critical friends with a perceived boundless energy, both of whom look forward to passing the baton on in 2023! Tim and Jeanette were reappointed for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively. They have both continue to help manage the processes and administration of our parish with care and insight.

In 2022, the Parish continued to defend its actions against a former employee. By the year end, we were moving towards the end of a legal process lasting well over a year. At the time of writing (March 2023), we finally received judgement from the Courts that the Parish had not acted unfairly, and claims made against the parish were dismissed entirely. This has been an exhausting process that consumed significant amounts of time and resource, and one which we could not report openly at the time. We were supported by our Legal Team (initially at Sinton's of Newcastle, then latterly from Irwin Mitchell of Leeds and our Barrister Mr Ratledge of St John's Buildings Manchester), and we note that we are indebted to our Insurance Company in their support during this process too.

In the early summer we celebrated the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in the Church Gardens in a truly British way... we were all freezing: none-the-less, we managed to keep a brave face and eat cake! In the late Summer we joined with the nation to mourn the death of her late Majesty and in a poignant ceremony the Proclamation of the King in Fenham took place in Church – something only seen twice before in the life of the Church.

As always, these pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish. I trust you will see within them our wider hope to be a 'Parish that welcomes all, without exception'.

This report is edited on St Patrick's Day, a day of revelry and increasing secular celebration. Patrick would have perhaps shunned any sense of celebrity, clear that he – and the church he served as Bishop – only stood because of the will of God and dedication of the faithful. Little has changed I suspect, and our shared life together stands in testimony to that.

James ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 17th March 2023

Patrick. Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland c460

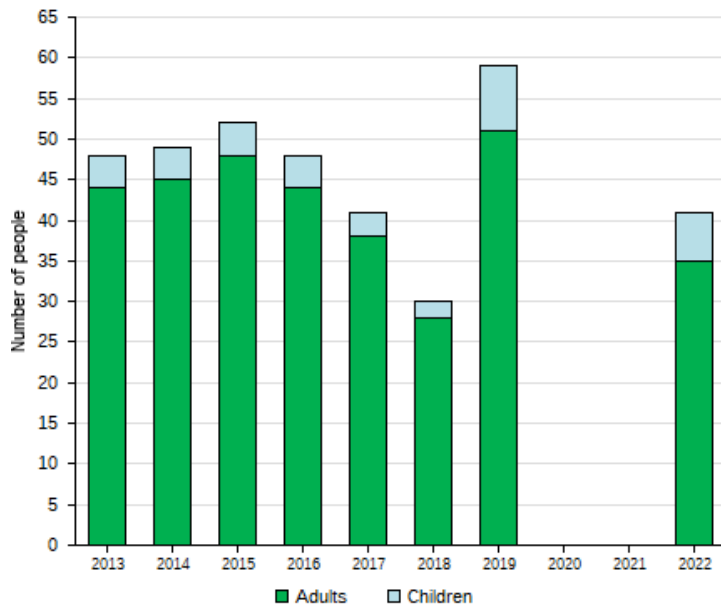
'I hold quite certainly that what I am, I have accepted from God'

Att. Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus, St Patricks Confesio.

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 79 (2020 = 78)

i. Usual Sunday Attendance, (2013-2022)



The Usual Sunday Attendance would normally include those present at all of our services, the 10am, 5:30pm and the occasions when the African Congregation meet, Baptisms are held or seasonal services take place. Given the exceptional circumstances, the Church of England is omitting the figures returned for 2020 and 2021 from its data analysis.

Attendance during 2022 often remained hard to calculate. Our services were streamed online and held in person. These services do provide statistical analysis of participation, but as people joined late,

left early, technology let us down (!), or viewed services during the week it is difficult to give an average 'real' figure that is useful for comparison.

The average attendance of people in church each Sunday was 42 (including all services held. The 2021 average was 39).

Easter Day 2022

2022 = Attendance in the Parish - 111

2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

2020 = Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

2019 = Attendance in the Parish – 80

Christmas 2022 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2022 – 297

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174*

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes 'non average' attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. In

2020 and 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were in place, these figures also do not include anyone joining or viewing online.

2018 = 44

2019 = 74

2020 = 44

2021 = 39

2022 = 42

In 2022 1 wedding, 22 funerals and 5 baptisms were held in the Parish.

These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Administration, publicity and website.

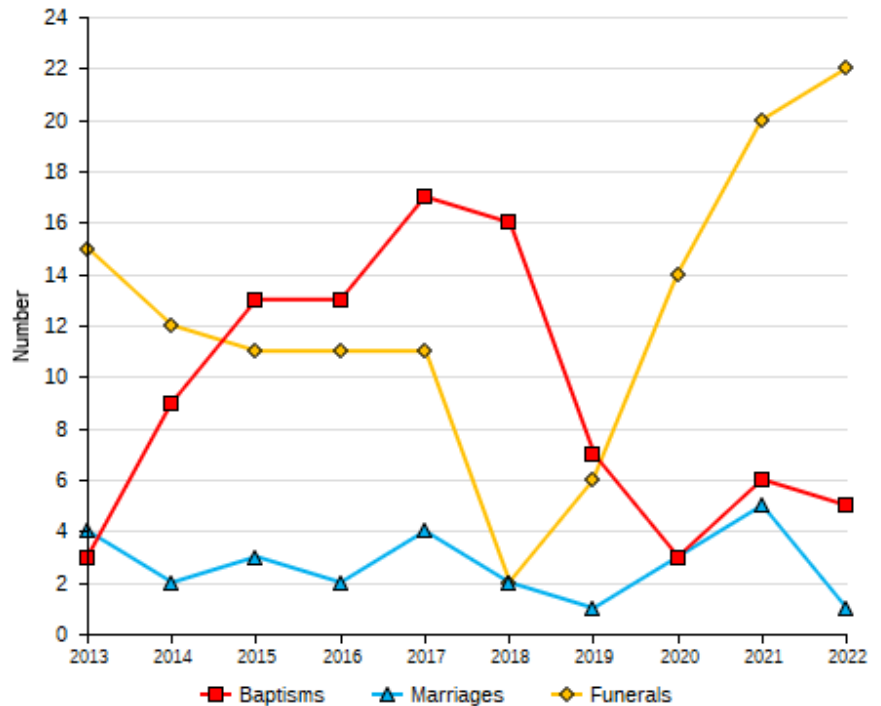
In 2022 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary) and Niel Soulsby supporting our online presence.

Administration in the parish is a significant task and we remain thankful to those who help out with small jobs to share the load around a little.

Our online presence continues to grow as our virtual ‘shop window’ to both the local community and further afield. In 2022, our webpage was accessed 25,763 times by 8,606 unique users, this represents a fall over the 2021 figures but it remains higher than 2020.

Our Facebook community ended the year with almost 800 people ‘following’ us. Our Vimeo page (video streaming platform) continued to have good use with numbers following online (or watching again) being at least 40% of the ‘in-person’ congregation. These virtual tools continue to be an important way of connecting with local groups and networks to promote events and concerts and to include people in our shared worship and life together. Live streaming of services began during the early weeks of the first COVID pandemic of 2020, we will continue to monitor the use of live streaming as we consider if this is something that we will carry forward into future years.

i. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2013-2022)



Café from Margaret Cutting

The cafe, now referred to as the Kiosk, has continued to go from strength to strength since moving back to Thursday mornings during last year. The Early Years music group has also restarted with Paige and we welcome several little ones each week. They have become our first group of regulars in the morning and are followed by members of an exercise group and those from an art group later in the day. Both these groups meet in the church hall on a weekly basis.

The PCC are now in a position to consider employing someone as a catering manager to expand and grow our service to the community. We will however still depend on volunteers for week to week service and are always looking for anyone who would like to join the team.

If you enjoy meeting people and eating home made delicious food then please come on Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the church.

Children and Young People

Whilst we regularly have children and young people present in church, these are often small numbers and in the absence of a regular group of people to prepare and lead anything specifically for this age group, the number attending is often very low.

The Godly Play resources were relocated to the area in front of the memorial chapel – so we have a ‘kit’ ready to use once we have leaders in place.

When specific services were planned with a more informal feel and ‘family focus’ (for example, Harvest & Christmas), the numbers of family groups attending were higher. In 2023, the Parish might consider a more regular return to a pattern of services that explicitly includes regular services that aimed at families attending together.

‘Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs’ (our early years, weekly music session) restarted as soon as restrictions would permit in the early summer. As is recorded in the ‘Café/Kiosk’ report, we welcomed Paige to lead the group. Paige manages this group in a new gentle way and we have found a new cohort of local parents and carers join us on a Thursday morning.

Deanery Synod Report from Margaret Green

Rachel Gill and I were appointed as the Newcastle West Deanery Synod Representatives at the APGM 2020, so this last year was the final year of the 3 year term. Voting will take place at this year’s APCM for our representatives. The number of representatives depends on the number of members on the Electoral Roll. Churches with 51-80 members are allowed 2 and as we have 76 members we again may have 2. The Synod has met 3 times in the last year. The first in May was at Holy Saviour Church Sugley and was Rev’d James McGowan’s first as Area Dean and it was also the first live

meeting since the pandemic. The Rev'd Neil Heslop gave a brief history of the church which was founded in 1837. The parish of Denton was formed from part of Sugley and Neil is priest in charge of both parishes. The October meeting was held at St Mary's Church Throckley and in February (2023) we met at St James Church Benwell.

Meetings usually start with updates on the host church by the incumbent. Finance is a regular item on the agenda as are updates on vacancies & appointments around the Deanery. Updates from the Diocese include the Next Steps in the project Bringing Hope, Growing Church. Funding for this from the national church has not yet been achieved. Also with regard to finance only 80 full time clergy can be sustained in the Diocese instead of the current 91. It was noted at the February meeting that there has been some growth. The Deanery Development Group (DDG) works to identify the needs of parishes and works out how to cover mission and deploy resources. Information gathered from a self review questionnaire from parishes should help with this.

Safeguarding is also a regular item with reminders to keep up to date at level 3 on the Dashboard. The main item in October was a presentation of the Diocesan Generous Giving Team which encourages all forms of generosity. Overall giving and the number of givers is falling. There are several ways of giving and the team can be contacted for advice but it was also noted that non-financial giving should not be overlooked. At the February meeting at St James church in Benwell it was recommended we watch a video entitled "Fighting the Cost of Living" which can be seen on BBC iPlayer for the next ten months. This is an excellent documentary about the cost of living crisis and features the community in Benwell and the Food Bank at St. James. It shows a community bringing support, food and hope to those most in need and it has been stated on the media that the generosity and love shown gives a real hope for humanity. It also features the Rev'd Chris Minchin who many of us will remember as a member here at St James and St Basil's in his student days when he constructed the Tower of Babel with the old chairs!

At some meetings we may divide into groups for a short discussion, as we did at St James. There is great diversity amongst the churches in the Deanery and discussions are held as to how we all may help each other in sharing our various talents and assets. We were informed the Archdeacon's 3 yearly visits are to start again. The new Deanery Synod will meet on 15 June 2023.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every six years the Electoral Roll is renewed and this will take place in 2025. In the intervening years it is revised to bring it up to date and the revision this year has to be completed by 12 March, two weeks before the APGM on 26 March.

This year we welcome three new members, -Anne Henderson, Helen Lewis and Amy Marshall. As they have joined before 12 March they will be able to vote at the meeting. Anyone wishing to be on the Roll after 12 March may do so but they will not be able to vote at this APGM.

We remember with love those who have died this last year, - Eunice Davidson, Robert (Bob) Clements, Joyce Little and Margaret Johnson. With their loss and the three new members we now have 79 members on the Electoral Roll.

With the confidentiality and privacy regulations the Electoral Roll is no longer displayed in church but is kept in the church safe and member may see their own entry on request.

Engagement with Schools

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2022. The role of the school Chaplain is rooted within a multi-disciplinary student support team alongside the school nurse, counselors, art therapist and psychotherapist (and from 2022, Heidi and Poppy, the two school Therapy Dogs – Heidi 'working' at the senior school and Poppy with the Juniors).

Dame Allan's Senior School Chamber Choir returned to lead half termly Evensong on the penultimate Friday of each term. The Choir is now almost entirely made up of students – this is a clear change from pre-pandemic years.

We welcomed school curriculum visits from Dame Allan's Junior School, Wingrove Primary School and we visited the senior school to support their Religious Studies Curriculum on occasions alongside leading Collective Worship in school at Dame Allan's and at Cheviot Primary School in Newbiggin Hall.

The Vicar continued to serve on the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust) and as a Director of the Pele Academy Trusts (whose schools serve the outer west of the city and Ponteland and its surrounding villages).

Fabric

No significant works were undertaken in 2022. Some minor repairs and maintenance were carried out.

Church

Routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ was tuned towards the end of the year by Woods of Huddersfield.

In the summertime we held a number of 'Tidy Up Tuesdays' followed by lunch at the pub for those who wanted to join us. This offered opportunity to catch up on housekeeping and small projects were completed including repolishing the floor, cleaning all the silverware, reorganizing and redecorating the rear lobby (by the vestry), oiling the exterior timber work, and a tidy up of the basement.

The PCC considered the redevelopment of the memorial area and have requested designs showing the removal of the stone altar base. The proposal would retain the oak 'top' and commission a new timber base for this. This would allow greater flexibility of the space and be the first step in creating a permanent 'sanctuary space' in a church which is increasingly busy during the week.

No further works from the Quinquennial Report were carried out.

Having begun to develop a good and creative relationship with our Architect, Mr Ian Lucas, the PCC were saddened to hear the news of his sudden death in May. Mr Lucas (of the SmithersPurslow Partnership) had not only carried out our last inspection, but had also led his team through the initial staged of the feasibility study for the Parish Hall Redevelopment project. Until the PCC can appoint a new consulting architect, all works were put on hold.

Fabric – Hall (including hall users)

Routine servicing continued in 2022.

Following almost two years of quieter life in the hall with all the seasons of restrictions in place, 2022 saw a new busy routine develop. By the year end regular activities include an after school Children's Drama Group, Zumba classes, daytime exercise groups and yoga, an art group for children who are homeschooled, the local History Society, English and Maths Tuition, early morning weekend yoga and our resident scout group the 82nd Newcastle. In 2022, the hall also saw the establishment of second scout troop (a branch of the 49th Newcastle), this group simply rents the space from us on a Sunday morning and is specifically aimed at local children from Islamic families.

In addition, our two studio spaces (the Upper Room and the Basement) continue to be home to two local businesses. The basement is occupied by Derek Farrell and is home to his joinery workshop. Derek is much in demand locally, but offers his workshop to the community on a Saturday morning and is often around to offer a loan of tools or tips, advice and guidance. Derek has supported the parish through his offer of time and labour to help carry out some routine maintenance and work. The Upper Room remained the home of Petals & Power, a local floristry and art studio run by Vicky Foreshaw. Vicky also runs several workshops and groups throughout the week in her studio and offers some of her time to the parish through her talent and time.

In the early part of 2023, the PCC hope to appoint a new Architect and continue to the next stage of the consultation and planning for the hall redevelopment.

Finance

The parish continues to manage to pay its way thanks to the efforts of many. Our Parish share offer is currently lower than the suggested amount, this reflects a year in which we continued to recover from COVID pandemic restrictions and increased expenses with the cost-of-living crisis. This isn't sustainable in the long term as whilst our offer is relatively low in the Diocesan Budget, all parishes are feeling the strain which will see the Diocese run at a significant deficit in 2023 (having done so already for a number of years).

Locally, we no incurred no major items of expense until the end of the year when a large amount was invested in number 32 Auburn Gardens in an attempt to catch up with long over due maintenance.

As we move into 2023, our major challenge will be utility costs. Our current supply contract negotiated a few years ago comes to an end in the spring of 2023. At this point will see significant increases in already very large heating bills having been protected from these in recent years.

Gardens

2022 saw the Gardens remain a much loved space for the local community. Our paid gardener, Penny Hunter continued to work with volunteers to manage the gardens throughout the year.

The footpaths continue to present a significant area of risk and a number of accidents were recorded. To help manage the risk, we began to install outdoor lighting along the main walkway. By the end of the year three lights were in place which create pools of light along the long boarder whilst allowing some light to 'spill' across the footpath.

The lights are triggered by movement. This was felt to be a less intrusive option to flood lighting (which might cause problems for our neighbours and disturb wildlife). The Gardens saw the planting of a new Silver Birch Tree together with some small fruit trees in memory of members of the Rochester Family. The species of tree were chosen to hopefully increase the biodiversity of the gardens and encourage greater birdlife. Plans were also made to carry out maintenance on the large trees within the garden (this work will hopefully be carried out in the early months of 2023).

Godly Play

We continue to hold a large stock of Godly Play resources and in 2022 these were used to support school visits, and also on some occasion during our church services. With nobody here to run regular sessions, these paused in the late spring of 2022.

Hospitality

The parish mission continues to place a high priority on its mission to create space for all. The Church Kitchen continues to manage, though we recognise that it was not designed to do what it currently has to and some items of the fixtures and fittings are wearing out quicker than we might have anticipated. By the year end the dishwasher had been replaced by a refurbished commercial one, and the hot tap failed entirely (this was replaced at the very end of the year).

In 2022, the 'Fenham Local' markets did not run – this was largely due to organizational capacity. It seems that these were missed by the local community. We did manage to run a Christmas Market in the hall and hope to see the return of the summer markets in the garden in 2023.

Jazz @ Js & Bs from Tony Roberts

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent refugee crisis, J's&B's stepped up to the mark by organising a jazz fund raiser afternoon. The musicians and vocalists generously gave their time free and we raised £1270 for the Disasters Emergency Committee. Later in the summer we continued with our garden concerts, between June and September, with some wonderful musicians including guitarist Joe Steels, singer Ruth Lambert and our great local trombonist David Gray. This year we are planning a programme of mostly vocal concerts beginning in May.

Liturgy & Worship

2022 saw a continued and gradual return to pre covid practice – the 'shared cup' was re-introduced at Easter for those who wished to receive and we stopped restricting numbers to our larger services like Harvest and Easter.

Throughout the year we continued to produce separate service booklets for each Sunday (which usually had all the correct words and music in the right places!). This brought sense of convenience and ease to Sunday mornings, though it was time consuming and costly in terms of administrative resources.

Main Sunday services continued to be streamed online to our Vimeo page. Funerals and weddings were also streamed around the world to families on private pages if requested.

2022 saw a more mixed use of the High Altar and Nave Altar depending on the season. Our service pattern developed to include a first Sunday of the month with services accompanied by the Quartet (now known as the St James Consort) on the Piano. This gave a quieter more reflective start to each month and offered a fresh contrast to music on the organ.

Music *From Simon Davies Fidler*

Sunday Mornings

This year we have welcomed organists Robin Beaumont and Paul Ritchie into a pattern of more regular playing on Sunday mornings. We have enjoyed introducing mass settings into the congregation's repertoire by Paul. Robin has introduced us to lots of new new music from his wealth of experience, which is always imaginative and fun.

The St James' Consort continues to lead the singing on the first Sunday of each month, and on special feast days, accompanied by Len Young on the piano.

This year the Consort has recorded 10 Christmas Carols by Len Young in the church. Films of those recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube.

Jellyfish & Bees has settled into a regular pattern on Thursday mornings before cafe, led by Paige.

In August the **Newcastle Phoenix Choir** will be two year's old! The choir continues to welcome new members and has become a fixture in the week for many singers. The Friday afternoon sessions are always uplifting and fun. For anyone wondering what the Phoenix Choir is all about, these words (that I've borrowed from the Citizens of World Choir) encapsulates it nicely: We are a music organisation that advocates for understanding, dignity and kindness through the transformative impact of music and song.

Our time in the cafe after singing allows space for socialising and provides time for individuals to sing to the rest of the group. This year we've enjoyed performing at

Brunswick Methodist Church, Laing Art Gallery and alongside the Morning Chorus in a concert at J's & B's.

J's & B's Singers has continued to bounce back after the Pandemic. At the time of writing the choir has over 70 members regularly attending rehearsals on Monday nights. At Easter we look forward to a performance of Dvorak Mass in D and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs. This follows concerts in December (Messiah and Christmas Music) and July (Faure Requiem, Len Young Requiem), in which we collaborated with the Hexham Orpheus Choir.

Fenham Ensemble continues to rehearse in the church on Wednesday evenings. The choir supported another beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols service in December, with Robin at the organ. The choir also gave a concert featuring Vaughan Williams' Mass in G Minor, a collaboration with Sine Nomine in June and a concert at Blanchland Abbey in the spring. In June this year the choir looks forward to its first concert outside of the region - a concert in Glasgow with the Madrigals!

In September another choir - **The Morning Chorus** - was launched on Wednesday mornings, for singers who prefer to sing during daylight hours. It has become a popular ensemble, with around 90 singers coming to sing every week. The choir gave its first performance at the church in December and will give another concert in April.

Concerts at the church are becoming more frequent as musicians are finally out-and-about again. This spring / summer 2023 we look forward to performances by our in-house choirs, also by Iona Brown with David Murray and again with Mike Gerrard. We will be visited by Sonoro again with Voices of Hope in May and Len Young & Friends in June. Later in the year we welcome a return visit from the Brundibar Festival team and a first visit from Northern Praeclastica.

Equipment and Resources In 2022 some new items included,
A refurbished, replacement dishwasher in the church kitchen.

Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As the official 'Benefice Property', maintenance of the Vicarage remains the responsibility of the Diocese, day to day running costs are met by the Vicarage Household.

As reported for a fourth consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. (It was also noted during the year that the doorbell and a small number of sockets were still 'live' even when all the circuit breakers were switched off. These are likely to be very old circuits and

perhaps an indication that the whole house will require rewiring at some point in the near future).

The repairs to the boundary gates and guttering were not carried out by the Diocese in 2022 – however, a commitment to replace the front gate in the Spring of 2023 has been made. The guttering issue is now causing a buildup of moss on the exterior of some of the walls.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. Whilst it does have insulation in the roof and most of the exterior walls are insulated, the issue is the 34 single glazed sash windows. In 2022, in an attempt to offer better control over the heating, smart controls were fitted, and four radiators were replaced with larger ones in the hall ways. After four years of negotiation, in September the Diocese committed to installing secondary glazing in three rooms. Disappointingly, by the end of the year the order for these had still not been placed.

In December, the Vicarage Household replaced the carpets on the staircase and first floor hallway.

The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space.

32 Auburn Gardens

The house is owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens and under the terms of a trust deed, retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish. The House was let to tenants for most of the year. After the appointment of a Curate (Ryan McKeon) in the summertime, notice was served on the tenant, and we finally retook vacant possession at the end of October. A temporary arrangement was made with the Diocese to allow Ryan to occupy St Luke's Vicarage in Spittal Tongues until he could occupy number 32.

It was felt that Ryan should not move into the house until some of the issues with the property had been addressed. A plan was agreed to re-configure the first floor. This saw the relocation of walls and the creation of a larger 'family bathroom' in place of the current arrangement of a very small separate WC and small and unpleasant bathroom. These works also saw the correction of damp problems caused by leaking pipes and rot in the floor joists. Contractors began work in November and the works were largely completed by the end of the year ready for occupation by early 2023. The

Diocese provided an interest free loan for the works (totaling a little under £15,000). This will be repaid through deductions from the rent paid by the Diocese to the Parish for Ryan's tenure.

The house will need further works to the Kitchen and the – hopefully – minor repairs to the roof in the coming years.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of utmost importance

Health and Safety

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, all parish activities now require a written risk assessment to be carried out. Several minor incidents were noted from trips and falls though none caused significant injury or harm.

Safeguarding - from Margaret Green, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The safeguarding of children, young people, vulnerable adults and those who find themselves in difficult relationships is of paramount importance.

Routine practices remain the same. The Safeguarding Policy, agreed upon by the PCC, is reviewed yearly and is on display on the church notice board in the vestibule of the West Door of the church along with the booklet 'Promoting a Safer Church'. There are photographs of the Safeguarding Team which consists of Rev'd James McGowan, Jeanette Welch and myself as Safeguarding Officer. There is also more information on the church website, jamesbasilfenham.org.uk, and included are useful telephone numbers and my contact details. The latter are also on the Sunday pew sheet. Any safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and reported to Carol Butler, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, (DSA)

Anyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults and all members of the PCC, as Trustees of the Church, are DBS (Declaration and Baring Service) checked. Recruitment to any of these positions is taken seriously. DBS checks are carried out every 5 years and an updating training course undertaken every 3 years.

Carol Butler and her team are constantly in touch with any new information or warnings of suspicious behaviour anywhere in the Diocese & I report these to the PCC at the monthly meetings or sooner if necessary.

All churches now, in 2,000 churches in 24 Diocese, throughout the Church of England, have a Safeguarding Dashboard chart which shows at a glance, by a series of colours, it's Safeguarding Status,- whether it is up to date, any action that needs to be taken or if that action is urgent. It reminds of tasks that need renewing and shows the Diocese where help may be needed. All the churches in the Diocese are now at Level 3. Each church now has to be watchful and maintain that same level.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader

Another busy year for the Scout group, our numbers continue to be healthy and there is always a waiting list for young people to join Beavers and start their Scouting journey with us. We are fully back in the swing of things post Covid with young people taking part in a wide range of activities and achieving a lot of badges and having a great time. We had our first Group Camp for three years last July, it was so lovely having young people spending the weekend together, enjoying the activities, Scouts cooking for themselves and of course coming together for Camp fire. In October we were able to take a small number of Scouts away to Dilston near Corbridge to complete their Expedition Challenge which resulted in three of the Scouts earning their Chief Scout Gold Award, well done to them.

It was a pleasure to be able to plant a tree in the church garden as part of the Queen's Green Canopy as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations especially following the sad time of the passing of Her Majesty. The First night following her passing we invested one of our Scouts, the first in our group to be invested with the promise changed to "Duty to God and the King", a special moment for him.

In February we were able to hold our first social event for the group, the wine tasting event was a huge and enjoyable success, it was so lovely to have members of the community joining in with us and it raised £300 for the group.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. Our newest leaders in Scouts are working hard to offer a fantastic programme to the Scouts but we still need some additional support, so as always the plea is if you know of anyone that may be interested let me know. It is a wonderful experience being involved in the group, I came as a parent who sat on the side-lines 30 years ago and have loved every minute of my Scouting experience, have had the privilege of seeing the incredible young people take part in, enjoy and develop through Scouting.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, we love being part of the community, thank you. *Carol*

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer

The traditional pattern of lent study groups continued to be disrupted by COVID restrictions, though a small group did meet in Advent.

The Sunday service pattern continued in its routine with the 10am (Holy Communion), 2pm (Holy Communion) and 5:30pm Evening Prayer services being held most weeks. The Church continued to be opened most days and received a regular number of visitors throughout the week who use the space for quiet reflection.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and*
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.*

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- (c) an actual communicant;*
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;*
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).*

Agenda

1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1

2) Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

Agenda

- 1) **Apologies**
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting** *Appendix 2*
- 3) **Matters arising**
- 4) **Election of**
 - a. **Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)**
 - b. **Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**
 - c. **Sidespeople / Welcomers** *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*
- 5) **Appointment of Auditor**
- 6) **Report on the proceedings of the Church Council**
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) **Treasurer's Report** *Accounts attached in appendix 3*
 - a. **Examination of audited accounts**
 - b. **Statement of funds & property** *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) **Fabric Report** *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.*
- 9) **Chairman's Report** *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) **Any Other Business** – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

Appendix 1. Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2022 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting.
All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022 Minutes

**The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)
Sunday 10th April 2022
At 11:15am in Church
Minutes of Meeting**

1. Present & Apologies for Absence APCM 2022

PRESENT: Revd James McGowan (Chair), Nicki Walter, Margaret Cutting, David Welch, Nigel Welch, Jeanette Welch, Tony Roberts, Marjorie Rochester, Niel Soulsby, Gillian Cunningham, Caroline McGowan, Margaret Johnson, Joo Li Ng, Simon Davies-Fidler, Margaret Reid, Osaro Omobude, Rachel Gill, Tim Bradbury, Jo Maunder.

Via Zoom: Bonnie Brinn, Lesley Crawford, Margaret Green, Gillian Howe

APOLOGIES: Rosemary Nicolson, Nicholas Martin, Jo Haxworth,
Joanne Ayre

Attendance 2022

There were 23 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan.

2. Minutes of Last Vestry Meeting at APCM 2021

There were no amendments and were agreed as true & correct:

Proposed by: Marjorie Rochester

Seconded by: Gillian Cunningham

All Agreed & were signed by Revd J. McGowan.

Vestry Meeting - Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting. There being no other nominations these two appointments were:

Agreed by all. Therefore both were duly elected.

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Revd James McGowan advised the APCM was being held under the Church Representation Rules of 2021

Minutes of the previous APCM on 25th April 2021

There being no amendments, these were agreed as true and correct.

Proposed: Margaret Reid

Seconded: Margaret Johnson

ALL AGREED & were signed by Revd J. McGowan.

The Agenda, previous minutes from APCM on 25th April 2021, reports and the Financial Statement of Accounts for 2021 from Tim Bradbury (Treasurer) which were printed in the form of a Booklet and distributed to all on the Electoral Roll in advance of the 2022 APCM, are available and will be stored in the Church including these minutes.

Completed & signed Election Forms are also stored in the Church.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 25th April 2021.

Revd J McGowan commented that it wasn't anticipated on how harder financially it would be for the Church due to Covid & that it has been a difficult Year but we have done satisfactorily & gave thanks to those who have contributed.

4. Election of:

a. Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

As 2 representatives had been elected at the APCM in 2020 and they stand for a 3year term, the next Election for Deanery Synod Representatives will take place at the APCM in 2023.

b. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Margaret Johnson & Nigel Welch were due to step down following a 3year term on the PCC. There was also one vacant place. Consequently there were 3 representatives to be elected. See information below:

1. Tony Roberts

Margaret Johnson & Nigel Welch both had indicated they would be willing to stand again for another 3year term.

2. Margaret Johnson
3. Nigel Welch

There being no other nominations the three appointments to the PCC was:
Agreed by all

c. Sidespersons/Welcomers

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2011 M6(6).

5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Jane Makepeace Examined 2021 accounts & has agreed to stand again as Examiner of Accounts for 2022, which was:

Proposed by:	Rachel Gill
Seconded by:	Joo Li Ng

Agreed by all

6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this document to be taken as such a report (attached).

7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts - (Jan-Dec 2021)

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC Meeting which were then Independently Examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

Marjorie Rochester gave thanks to Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer & PCC

For keeping our Church life going & the Church had remained open most days in unprecedented times during the lockdown situation due to Covid-19.

8. Fabric Report

This was reported in the booklet (attached). JMcG also gave a brief summary during the meeting that although some works were needed to be carried out on

the buildings these were nothing major or urgent & outlined that these would be carried out during the course of this year.

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

9. **Chairman's Report**

This is in the form of the Introduction & Vicars Report which is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were Invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

There followed a vote to accept **Items: 7, 8, 9:**

Proposed by: Joo Li Ng

Seconded by: Niel Soulsby

ALL AGREED

10. **Any Other Business**

Revd Osaro Omobude gave thanks to Revd James McGowan and the Congregation of St James & St Basils Church for their welcome to him & his family when they arrived 7years ago and for the opportunity given for fellowship not just church fellowship but also church as a place of sanctuary & thanked for the opportunity to lead the African Church Group monthly. Niel Soulsby followed with a suggestion of having events during the course of the year by having joint services/events with the African Church congregation

Revd James McGowan responded by advising that next week on Easter Sunday 17th April Revd Osaro Omobude will be assisting at the 10am Service & the African Congregation are welcome to attend also & would like this to be recognised as a formal partnership by the Diocese.

Revd James McGowan closed the meeting & announced the next PCC Meeting as below:

Next PCC Meeting: Tuesday 26th May at 7pm in Church Hall

Jeanette Welch Secretary to PCC

Appendix 3 Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2022, together with the financial statements for 2022. *NB at the time of printing, these statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are 'received' and then are later 'approved' at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before*

the 31st May 2023 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.

Employee Pensions Liability

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) December 2022 Year End

The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers. The Parish participates in the *Pension Builder 2014 Scheme*. *Pension Builder 2014* is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Assets

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

32 Auburn Gardens

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent, and the Bishop of Newcastle.

Paxton

Multiple Fund Receipts and Payment Report - December 2022

Page 1 of 3

Printed: 10/01/2023

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

December 2022 year to date turnover											
	<u>General</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Total</u>	2021
Voluntary Receipts											
Donations received	2,672.14	1,213.28	0.00	500.00	12,071.81	0.00	5,948.26	0.00	0.00	22,405.49	17,452.15
Collections	829.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	1,059.98	946.54
Planned Giving	16,899.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,899.00	16,735.00
Gift aid tax received	9,242.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,242.61	5,506.77
Grants received	2,457.32	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	13,457.32	17,254.86
	<u>32,101.05</u>	<u>11,213.28</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>12,071.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,178.26</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>63,064.40</u>	<u>57,895.32</u>
Receipts from Fundraising Activities											
Fundraising income	1,622.50	0.00	0.00	454.30	0.00	0.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	2,191.80	
	<u>1,622.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>454.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>115.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,191.80</u>	
Receipts from Charitable Activities											
Fees	6,024.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,024.00	7,651.00
Rent	270.00	0.00	6,936.40	15,164.50	701.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,071.90	18,886.38
Charitable Activity Receipts	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	325.50
Cafe	1,188.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.20	10,847.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,040.95	11,139.08
Choir subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,510.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,510.00	4,934.00

Concert income	208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,298.59	0.00	30.70	0.00	0.00	7,537.29	5,483.55
	<u>7,710.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,936.40</u>	<u>15,164.50</u>	<u>9,514.79</u>	<u>10,847.74</u>	<u>30.70</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,204.14</u>	<u>48,419.51</u>
Receipts from Investments											
Interest received	2.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.23	1.38
	<u>2.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2.23</u>	<u>1.38</u>
Other Receipts											
Miscellaneous receipts	555.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	763.78	1,601.32
	<u>555.64</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>208.14</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>763.78</u>	<u>1,601.32</u>
Fundraising Costs											
Social Events	141.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	141.13	110.00
Charitable Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,270.00	0.00	0.00	1,270.00	
	<u>(141.13)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,270.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,411.13)</u>	<u>(110.00)</u>
Charitable Activities Costs											
Heat, Light and Power	8,013.24	0.00	0.00	4,107.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,121.13	10,752.65
Maintenance	2,481.13	596.40	2,964.99	0.00	0.00	14.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,057.51	5,715.13
Hall Maintenance	25.97	0.00	0.00	362.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	388.45	
Grounds Maintenance	415.37	6,701.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,116.54	7,083.33
Insurance	0.00	8,808.95	228.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,037.03	6,252.13
Development	1,566.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,566.00	2,070.00
Worship	2,960.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,010.71	8,120.33

Diocesan fees	4,352.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,352.00	3,563.00
Parish Share	35,040.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,040.00	20,000.00
Consultancy											3,733.00
Consultancy expenses											3,210.00
Clergy Expenses	3,296.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,296.28	3,538.96
Council Tax	3,339.11	0.00	771.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,110.33	2,071.44
Water rates	1,036.80	0.00	51.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,088.06	658.50
Volunteer expenses	570.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	570.79	1,466.25
Cafe expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,776.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,776.90	700.76
Office costs	2,319.08	0.00	0.00	391.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,710.08	2,822.75
Printing & stationery	390.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	390.25	178.69
Publicity costs	237.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	237.00	522.00
Music expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,525.83	0.00	9,377.73	0.00	0.00	27,903.56	15,348.09
	(66,043.73)	(16,106.52)	(4,015.55)	(4,861.37)	(19,575.83)	(1,791.89)	(9,377.73)	0.00	0.00	(121,772.62)	(97,807.01)
Governance Costs											
Sum up charges	704.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	704.72	457.98
Bank charges	345.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	345.89	264.73
	(1,050.61)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,050.61)	(722.71)
Other Costs											
Miscellaneous costs	590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118.56	394.80	0.00	0.00	1,103.36	4,070.00
	(590.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(118.56)	(394.80)	0.00	0.00	(1,103.36)	(4,070.00)
Transfers											

Transfers between funds	(27,464.25)	(15,000.00)	6,000.00	20,000.00	1,170.00	20,000.00	(4,705.75)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	27,464.25	15,000.00	(6,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(1,170.00)	(20,000.00)	4,705.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net receipts/payments	1,630.10	10,106.76	(3,079.15)	(8,742.57)	1,049.02	(11,062.71)	987.18	0.00	0.00	(9,111.37)	5,207.81
Cash funds at start of year	-21,490.96	-10,727.20	9,533.06	16,808.25	4,484.72	19,002.89	4,149.58	3,574.57	3,000.00	28,334.91	23,127.10
Cash funds at end of year	-19,860.86	-620.44	6,453.91	8,065.68	5,533.74	7,940.18	5,136.76	3,574.57	3,000.00	19,223.54	28,334.91



	<u>Value</u>
Cash Funds	
Bank current account	7277
Bank savings account	8096
CBF 1	880
CBF2	2970

	19223

Net assets/liabilities	19223

Accounts



The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham

Annual Meetings & Reports 2021



www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2021

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2021. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on Palm Sunday, the 10th April 2022 as part of the main 10am service.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

On reflection, 2021 was a more challenging year than the previous one. On the one hand COVID remained with us with its changing landscape of rules and restrictions and of course illness and tragedy. On the other, the various assistance schemes, clear direction and order were withdrawn as we learned to live with the situation that we found ourselves in.

The parish finances found themselves on their own – 2021 saw less public funding available, and some of our Pre-Covid activity did not restart.

You'll see that the Parish weathered the storm once again. More than this, we saw several new projects and partnerships begin and we embarked on a process of sharing initial concepts for further development with the wider community. As always, I note my thanks to all who share in this wider vision and effort to create a space of open doors and welcome. I particularly recognise the considerable efforts of Nicki and Margaret our Churchwardens; companions in dreaming the dreams and keeping me in order!

Tim and Jeanette were both reappointed for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively. They have both continue to help manage the processes and administration of our parish with care and insight.

These pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish. I trust you will see within them our wider hope to be a 'Parish that welcomes all, without exception'.

On a personal note, many of you will know of my period of illness towards the end of 2021. Unexpected surgery and the recovery that followed filled the final months of the year, meaning something things simply didn't happen as they might have. What was very much appreciated in this time was the space, the love and care that was shown to me and my family from across the parish.

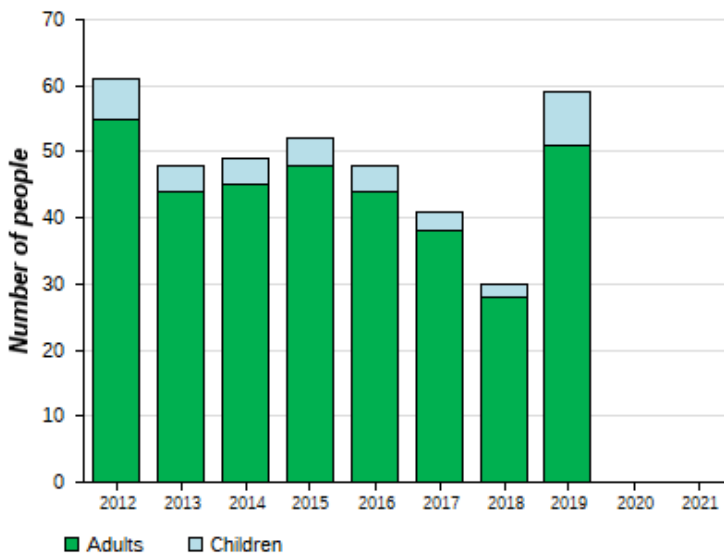
I sit compiling this report on the Feast of the Annunciation. The day remembered as the occasion of the announcement of the coming of God made flesh – namely 9 months before Christmas (!) and of Mary's role as the *Theotokos*, the God bearer. Our Parish continues to be a place where the hope of individual encounters with God might take place, perhaps without tradition, form or agenda and through welcome, hospitality and creativity. As we continue to play our part in this may we long recognise our role as the *God bearers* in Fenham and beyond.

James ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 25th March 2021 *Feast of the Annunciation*

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 78 (2020 = 83)

Usual Sunday Attendance, (2012-2021)



The Usual Sunday Attendance would normally include those present at all of our services, the 10am, 5:30pm and the occasions when the African Congregation meet, Baptisms are held or seasonal services take place. Given the exceptional circumstances, the Church of England is omitting the figures returned for 2020 and 2021 from its data analysis.

Attendance during 2021 is hard to calculate. Our services were

streamed online and held in person. These services do provide statistical analysis of participation, but as people joined late, left early, technology let us down (!), or viewed services during the week it is difficult to give an average 'real' figure that is useful for comparison.

The average attendance of people in church each Sunday was 39 (including all services held).

Easter Day 2021

2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

2020 = Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

2019 = Attendance in the Parish – 80

Christmas 2021 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174**

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

** numbers limited due to Social Distancing Measures in place, though we had 'waiting lists' in place for some services.

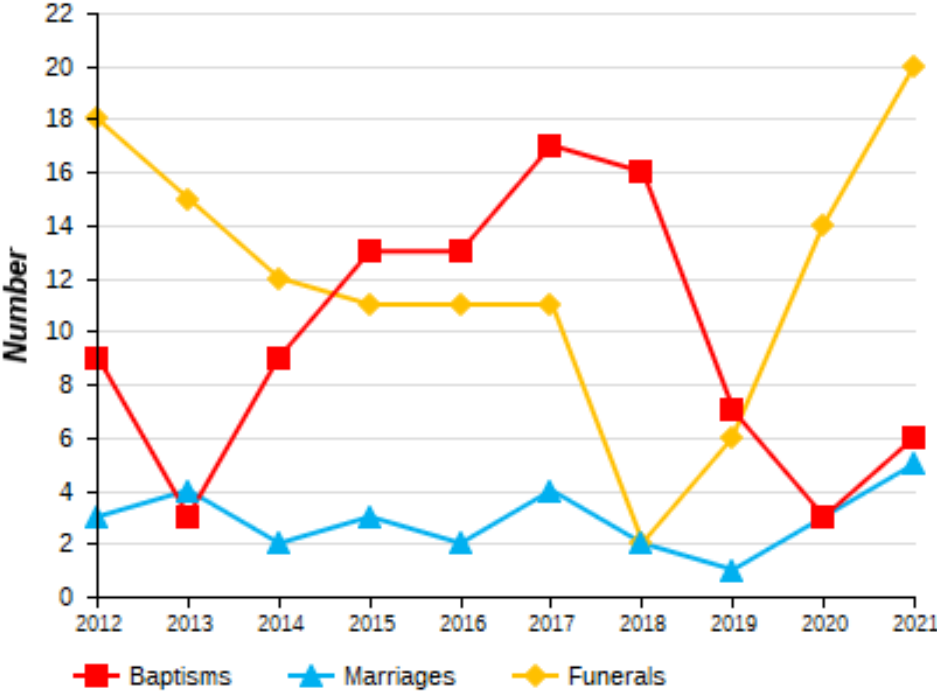
October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes ‘non average’ attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. In 2020 and 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were in place, these figures also do not include anyone joining or viewing online.

2017 = 94 2018 = 44 2019 = 74 2020 = 44 2021 = 39

In 2021 5 weddings, 20 funerals and 6 baptisms were held in the Parish.

These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2012-2021)



Administration, publicity and website.

In 2021 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary) and Niel Soulsby supporting our online presence. Without wanted to simply repeat comments in previous years, it is noted that administration takes up a significant amount of time and whilst we continue to develop processes and systems that help a little, there are many hours given weekly to answer emails, letters, phone calls, messages on social media and the like.

Our online presence continues to grow as our virtual 'shop window' to both the local community and further afield. In 2021, our webpage was accessed 28,293 times by 9,102 unique users, this represents a 62% increase over 2020. Our Facebook community ended the year with almost 700 people 'following' us. Our Vimeo page (video streaming platform) was viewed 2,356 times with an average view time of 29 minutes. These virtual tools continue to be an important way of connecting with local groups and networks to promote events and concerts and to include people in our shared worship and life together.

Bells *from the Tower Captain, Joanne Ayre.*

Bellringing cautiously recommenced in the summer, with Sunday service ringing initially then the introduction of practices fortnightly on Tuesdays. No learners were recruited at this point due to the 1-2-1 requirements of learning to ring. The advanced "first Wednesday of the month" practices have not yet recommenced. A peal had been pencilled in for the 90th anniversary of the first peal on the bells in August 2021, however because of the time ringers had been unable to ring before this date, a quarter peal was rung instead.

A peal by a visiting band was rung in November, which was the first since summer 2019. Fortnightly practices seem to be working well with good attendance. We continue to be supported by other local church bell ringers on Sunday mornings, and going forward recruitment of new ringers will be considered once restrictions are lifted more permanently,

Café *from Margaret Cutting*

The cafe reopened in February 2021, after the Christmas 2020 lockdown. We decided to try a new time slot on a Saturday morning and apart from an extended break over Christmas 2021 it has been open every week. Although Saturdays were fairly popular, to relieve the pressure on the church at the weekends when other events take place, in January 2022 it moved back to Thursday morning, where it began 7 years ago. During the summer a Farmers Market was held once a month in the gardens, with a Christmas Market in the hall in December. These were very well attended and boosted our income.

To comply with government guidelines a takeaway service was in place for most of the year but as restrictions lifted we extended our facilities to include indoors and have recently reintroduced the use of crockery and cutlery to reduce the use of disposables.

None of this would be possible without the help of our volunteers who willingly give their time to help serve and clear up. Thank you so much for all your help. Particular thanks to Joo Li and Nicki who share the baking and provide delicious cakes each week. We would like, and need, to add to our happy band so if you can help us occasionally in the cafe please contact Margaret Cutting to add your name to our rota. You do not need to be a member of the congregation as the cafe is a community facility.

Children and Young People

The Wonder Club, our bi-monthly Sunday School, did not return in 2021. A combination of COVID restrictions and lack of leaders meant that any restart would have led to a 'hit and miss' pattern which was not felt to be helpful. It is hoped that this will re-group in 2022, particularly as some of our younger babies and toddlers grow a little older.

Our weekly *Toddler's Music Group* was renamed 'Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs' and restarted as soon as restrictions would permit in the early summer. A new leader led the sessions on a Saturday day morning, initially in the Parish and then continuing until Christmas in the Church. Unfortunately, as the year ended it became clear that our leader couldn't commit to a move back to Thursday and so we ended the term with a renewed search for a leader with an ever-growing contact list of parents and carers eager to sing.

In the summer and early autumn, the Vicar helped to lead the youth group and confirmation class at Holy Cross Fenham during their period of Vacancy as the community at there awaited the arrival of their new minister.

Deanery Synod Report *from Margaret Green*

Rachel Gill and I were appointed as the West Deanery Synod Representatives at the APGM in 2020, so this year is the final year of our three year term. Due to Covid restrictions meetings have continued to be held on Zoom. Pre-Pandemic they were held quarterly but this has not been possible this last year. We have met twice, in June and September, and contact is maintained over the internet. In August a picnic was held in the garden of St. James and St. Basil's, Fenham, followed by a service in celebration of Creation.

At the meetings, which are chaired by the Area Dean, Rev'd Christine Brown, we hear news from around the parish, and reports from the Diocesan Synod, the Treasurer and the Deanery Development Group. This year we have also been

involved in the elections of new Diocesan and General Synod members. News of General Synod meetings can be found on the internet.

Through a video we heard how when Bishop Alec Graham came to Newcastle in 1982 he found a number of churches were inward looking rather than outward. Last year the Very Rev'd Mark Wroe, the then Archdeacon of Northumberland, talked to the Deanery Synod about the Diocesan's outward looking vision of a "Growing Church, Bringing Hope" and of his hope that parishes would be able to find ways to work together to implement this vision. A Diocesan-wide Group has been looking at ways in which this can be achieved and this will be by a process, entitled "the Next Steps" which was also explained on the video. As a result of answers from questionnaires five different types of community,- urban, suburban, deprived suburban, rural and market town have been considered, from three perspectives,- community, worshipping congregations, and ministry, and from the results obtained certain areas for change have been identified. The plan for the future is explained in the video and the five areas for change identified,- leadership development and training, change ministers, mission coaching teams, community children and youth, and operational support. Parishes will be asked to self review by completing questionnaires.

The Director of Mission and Ministry, Canon Rob Saner-Haigh, spoke to the June Deanery Synod Meeting about the "The Next Steps" but he said we should not worry about what it might entail for us; there are many other things needing our attention such as Safeguarding, living in love and faith and he reminded us of good things that are already happening such as the distribution of food parcels and work with the Farsi Community.

At the July Synod the newly appointed Archdeacon of Northumberland, the Rev'd Canon Rachel Wood, said she saw her job as one of help and support for parishes in their mission and working alongside them. She said she would be working with the national church to see through the process of appointing our next Bishop. Other dioceses are in vacancy at this time and we are fourth in line. The September meeting was Rev'd Canon Christine Brown's last as Area Dean for the West Newcastle Deanery. In December Rev'd James McGowan was appointed as the next Area Dean.

From the wider Deanery

Fr Niel Heslop (former curate at Js & Bs and Priest in Charge of Sugely) was also appointed as Priest in Charge of Denton. Fr Alan Paterson (Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall) announced his appointment as Priest in Charge at Wallsend. Fr Waldemar Nion (curate at Cowgate) was appointed halftime Priest in Charge of

Chapel House.

Holy Cross welcomed The Revd Dan McCarthy as Interim Minister on a fixed term, three-year appointment. This followed a vacancy of almost four years and is intended to give the Parish there an opportunity to review and consider their long term future in a little more detail.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every six years the Electoral Roll is renewed and in the intervening years it is revised to bring it up to date. The next renewal will be in 2025,

This year we welcome one new member, -Dr Margaret Reid.

We remember with love those who have died over this last year, Joan Duckett, Gordon Kinghorn and Thelma Hepple. With their loss and that of members who have moved away and, or who, are no longer able to attend, plus our new member, we now have 78 members on the Roll.

As Margaret joined before 20th March 2022, at least two weeks before the APGM, she will be able to vote at the meeting. Anyone wishing to be on the Electoral Roll may do so after 20th March but will not be able to vote until the APGM next year.

In view of the confidentiality and privacy regulations the Electoral Roll is no longer displayed in church but is kept in the church safe and members may see their own entry on request

Engagement with Schools

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2021. Dame Allan's School also used the church to record several concerts and events. In September 2021, a new student wellbeing hub opened at the school. Known as 'The Snug', this area now includes dedicated space for the Chaplain, School Counsellor and Psychotherapy Team and is a further significant step in the provision of pastoral support for students at the Schools.

2021 saw the return of school visits to the Church, and as the year ended we welcomed Dame Allan's juniors as part of their curriculum visit and dates were in the diary for sessions with students from Wingrove Primary.

The Vicar continued to serve on the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust) and as a Director of the Pele Academy Trusts (whose schools serve the outer west of the city and Ponteland and it's surrounding villages).

Fabric

No significant works were undertaken in 2021. Some minor repairs and maintenance were carried out.

Church

Routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ continued to receive its regular visits from Woods of Huddersfield.

The final Quinquennial Report (carried out in 2020) was received early in 2021. This detailed some minor repairs that will be carried out as time and resources allow. There was a cautionary note about the Tower Roof and the condition of some high level pointing, whilst this wasn't unexpected the formal notice of this problem will be something that PCC need address within the current and next Quinquennium.

Towards the end of the year, in preparation for Advent and Christmas the carpet in the Sanctuary area was removed. Like the carpet in the Chancel (removed in 2020), this had become a trip hazard and was badly stained. The carpets are rolled and stored in a dry condition in the church basement for the time being. The stone floors have been cleaned and the timber dais under the high altar has been cleaned and varnished.

Minor work, adaptation and addition to the AV system continued through the year.

In the summer months our Church Chandeliers were all lowered and cleaned by volunteers. The opportunity was taken to rewire some of the damaged sections of crystals, and all were converted to LED lamps in an effort to reduce our electricity costs and carbon footprint.

Fabric – Hall (including hall users)

Routine servicing continued in 2021.

In the early months of 2021 activity slowly returned to the hall.

Concerns about the Ravenside Preschool were noted in last year's report. This had operated in the hall for over 30 years as an entirely separate business and charity to the church; the parish served only as 'landlord'. The Preschool initially reopened but struggled to find a sustainable client group. Changing demographics and limitations on provision meant that the preschool closed soon after February half term. It did not re-open. In March and April, the preschool equipment and resources were removed from the site.

Two of the toilets were redecorated together with the 'middle room' (which had been an equipment store for the preschool. The Middle Room was furnished with chairs (taken from the upper vestry) and some furniture that had been in long term store in the church basement. The collection of Knott family portraits together with the mounted medals of James and Basil were displayed in this room; a room that soon became affectionately known as the 'Sir James Knott Lounge'! The room is now used as a small meeting room and is rented for two days per week by a local Psychotherapist who uses this space as a therapy room for their clients.

The old kitchen (also a former preschool store) was redecorated and is used as a second small kitchen and 'brew bar'.

The old cupboards in the upper landing were removed and the floor and walls repaired. This area, together with the upper room, is now let as studio space to a local florist and artist. Over the year the use of this space increased to include drawing classes and small group yoga.

The under-stage room (also a preschool store) was cleared, and new electric sockets were installed. This area was let as a second studio space and is currently occupied by a local joiner.

Our three new 'resident' businesses (Artist, Joiner and Psychotherapist) have given the hall the beginnings of a new chapter of life that we hope to see grow further in the coming months and years.

In last year's report, it was reported that the PCC had received initial sketches of a proposal to refurbish the hall. In the early part of the year further drawings and details were provided for consideration. In the late summer and early autumn, an informal process of local consultation began and two 'drop-in sessions' were held. Feedback from the local community will be considered by the PCC in 2022 and we will seek the advice of our architect as our consultation and development continues.

Finance *From Tim Bradbury (Treasurer)*

With the gradual lifting of restrictions, return of the café and an increase in hall rental income, the last financial year has been "okay". Again, we didn't pay all our parish share. The £4020 miscellaneous expense in the general fund was for some legal expenses which, rather than the Diocese re-imbursing us for they advised that we could deduct the amount from our parish share payments. In addition, a £6000 parish share payment for the 2021 financial year was made in January 2022 and does not appear in the 2021 accounts giving a total parish share payment of

£30,000 which is the same as 2020. Concerts and other music events are also starting up again so this should further boost our income in the coming year. On the good news front, we fixed our energy prices just over a year ago and this contract doesn't finish until mid/late 2023 so we are currently protected from the large increase in prices from April and also from any further increase in October. Our reserve funds are a little lower than I would like, and we will need to keep a close eye on our financial position over the next few months, but I am hopeful that it should start to improve, along with the weather!

Gardens

In 2021 the Gardens continued to be a sanctuary for local folk. The independent Gardening Group passed a resolution to close at their annual meeting in 2021. This was partly in recognition of their achievement of re-establishing the Gardens for the local community since the group's beginning in 2015, and in part due to the significant workload now falling on fewer volunteers. The Group kindly transferred their remain assets of £329.59 to the PCC towards the ongoing costs of the gardens. The Parish remains indebted to all the volunteers who have given time over the years to reclaiming the gardens for the local community.

In 2021, the PCC increased the hours of our paid gardener, Penny Hunter who continued to work in the Church Gardens, whilst some of the more routine 'labour' – like cutting the grass – was taken over by the Vicarage household. The footpaths continue to present a significant area of risk. COVID restrictions and the market conditions that followed meant it became very difficult to find contractors who would visit the site to quote for the work. The PCC did continue to investigate and prepare for future works – more detailed surveys of drainage were undertaken.

The Js & Bs Kiosk continued as an open-air takeaway café until lockdown restrictions meant that this was able to relocate indoors.

The once magnificent Cherry Tree at the end of garden (next to number 30 Auburn Gardens) finally became too badly diseased and a decision was taken to fell this tree before it caused accident or damage, this work was carried out just days before the autumn storms arrived.

Godly Play

The resources stored in church for the Cathedral during it's period of closure have now been given to the Parish on permanent loan. The Northeast Godly Play Network met twice during the year in church when COVID restrictions permitted.

Several of our more informal services included Godly Play in the ‘sermon slot’. This gave space for the congregation to simply hear the narrative from scripture and the opportunity to share and learn together. One notable occasion was our crib service on Christmas Eve where over 80 people gathered together to hear the Advent Story as they all participated in creating a large Advent Wreath and nativity scene which remained in church throughout the Christmas Season.

Hospitality

The parish mission to *Welcome all without exception* continued to be seen lived out through Coffee, Tea, Cake, Bacon Sandwiches (and on many occasions, something stronger, as the church wine cellar – actually a cupboard – saw a good deal of action).

The Church Kitchen is holding up well, though it is starting to show its age in some areas and some pieces of equipment are beginning to need regular ‘fettling’.

In the second half of the year, it was great to host a number of Fenham Food markets in the Church Garden in partnership with the Fenham Bakery. These boosted our coffers and introduced many new friends.

Jazz @ Js & Bs from Tony Roberts

During the summer we were able to stage some great concerts as part of the music in the garden series. They included pianist Dean Stockdale and vocalist Alice Grace both making their 3rd visit to Js&Bs. Plus some great vocalising from Jude Murphy and Lindsay Hannon. Later in the year we were able to put on three evening gigs which went off pretty well with Abbie Finn, Nicola Farnon and Alter Ego.

Liturgy & Worship

2021 saw a return to a more normal pattern of services. The Parish voluntarily ceased public worship for the first weeks of 2021, and we returned to church in early February with a public weekly service of Morning Prayer. We restarted Communion on Easter Sunday, and congregational singing restarted later in the year.

The custom of holding Evening Prayer at 5:30pm (rather than an early morning service) continued throughout the year. On occasions a service of Holy Communion is held in place of Evening Prayer.

2021 saw the continued practice of producing individual service booklets

containing all the hymn words, liturgy, and notices & news. This reduced the need to share materials and allowed a little more flexibility each week. By the end of the year most people now received their copy in church on a Sunday, though a small number continued to be delivered. The weekly sheet is also available to download from our website by Saturday morning each week.

Main Sunday services continued to be streamed online to our Vimeo page. Funerals and weddings were also streamed around the world to families on private pages as COVID restrictions continued to prevent travel.

2021 saw a more mixed use of the High Altar and Nave Altar. Feedback from members of the congregation suggested that the variety was valued and we hope to continue this in future months and years.

Music

Sunday Mornings

This year saw a welcome return to singing in the church and services were led by the (newly renamed) St James Consort, Sanctuary Voices and Fenham Ensemble. Charles Wooler left us in the Autumn leading to a different pattern to our services: a rota of visiting organists has been established with Simon cantoring when appropriate. The Consort continues to lead the first service of every month, sometimes with piano accompaniment.

Newcastle Phoenix Choir

In August 2021 we launched Newcastle Phoenix Choir, rehearsing on Friday afternoons in the church. The Phoenix Choir has taken on the work of Streetwise Opera, which stopped working in the north east, earlier in the year. The project has been very successful so far, with almost 40 different people accessing the choir and 20 attending regularly. In December the choir gave its first public performance at Brunswick Methodist Church, at a service dedicated to members of the homeless community who died during the year. Towards the end of the year members of the church community donated money for a set of choir branded hoodies, which have added to the sense of belonging and community within the group. Some members of the church and local communities have been welcomed into the group. The workshops are joyful and uplifting occasions!

J's & B's Singers

Our Monday night choir returned to in-person rehearsals from September and participated in a Christmas concert alongside the choirs of Northumbria University and Newcastle Cathedral, at the newly refurbished cathedral. The choir sang John Rutter's Gloria.

The choir also participated in the Christmas Eve family service at J's & B's. Rehearsals began in January for an Easter performance of Messiah (part 2) and Vivaldi's Gloria.

Happily the choir has returned with even greater numbers than before the pandemic with more joining all the time. Membership at the time of writing is about 65.

Fenham Ensemble also returned to full rehearsals in September after navigating the pandemic with groups of six rehearsals or no rehearsing at all! The autumn culminated in a concert at the church and a very memorable Nine Lessons and Carols service.

After the success of last year's **Summer Concert Series** we hosted another series this summer with many notable performances: The Independence Jazz Trio, Tim Jasper & Friends, The Foundry Jazz Ensemble, Yoshi Kawamura (Peter & The Wolf), Alexandra Raikhlina and The St James Consort, Mark Williams Standards Trio, The Andy May Trio, Landmason & Dark Sky Voices, Dean Stockdale. Trio and Alice Grace Trio.

The series wasn't as well attended this year probably due the poor weather which meant several performances were moved into the church. Also with covid restrictions being relaxed in the summer we were competing with other venues and leisure activities.

The Pandemic again caused a reduction in our evening concert output this year but when restrictions allowed, there were some fantastic events: Northumbrian Pipers Society Concert; Organ Recitals; Brundibár Festival Fundraising Concert; Gail, Bonnie and Mary's Christmas Concert; Opera Dei Lumi; Bob Chilcott Come & Sing Day; Voices of Hope Christmas Concert; Fenham Ensemble Christmas Concert; J's & B's Singers at the Cathedral.

The Children's group - with new branding, **Jellyfish & Bees** - made a return with a new slot on Saturday mornings, led by Carol Bowden. The Autumn saw a drop in numbers and the decision to move the group back to Thursdays along with the cafe. Unfortunately, Carol was unable to make the switch so we're currently looking for another leader to take the group on.

Equipment and Resources In 2021 some new items included,

A new filter coffee machine in the church kitchen.

LED lamps for the church chandeliers.

6 new tables and 24 chairs for the gardens

Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As reported for a third consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. Likewise, the repairs to the boundary gates and guttering were not carried out by the Diocese in 2021. Joinery work to replace some timber in a number of windows and exterior redecoration was carried out by the Diocese in the Autumn of 2021.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. Investigations were carried out to determine if additional gas fires might be installed, however questions were raised about the gas supply to the house (which is already technically running over capacity). Installation of a new, larger gas main will be expensive and was not felt to be the correct route (as this would inevitably lead to larger gas bills and only serve to increase the carbon footprint of the house).

In the autumn of 2021, the Vicarage household opened a fire in one of the downstairs rooms and carried out works to the corresponding chimney and fireplace.

In 2022, in recognition of the significant cost of heating and the commitment to reduce the Church of England's carbon footprint, the Diocese propose to install smart heating controls and to being a program of works to install secondary glazing to some windows.

The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space.

32 Auburn Gardens

The house owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish. Throughout 2021 the house was let to private tenants.

Throughout the year the catalog of repairs, failures and maintenance issues persisted. This along with a recognition that the house is increasingly dated and in need of update led the PCC to consider the future of the property in more

detail. After taking legal advice, the PCC submitted an application to the Charity Commission to amend the trusts in which the house is held; (the property is currently held in trust specifically for the occupation of an assistant curate). The PCC proposed to relax the trust to permit use of the property by a 'Church Worker' (which might be a musician, youth worker etc), or to sell the property and apply some of the funds to other parochial uses, (whilst retaining enough to buy a replacement, similar property elsewhere in the West of City). It should be noted that PCC did not make a decision to sell the property (as under the existing trust, they already could), but rather that if they did sell the property, they might have more freedom to use the assets differently. By the end of 2021, the PCC were still awaiting a response from the Charity Commission.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of utmost importance

Health and Safety

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, all parish activities now require a written risk assessment to be carried out. Several minor incidents were noted from trips and falls though none caused significant injury or harm.

Safeguarding - from Margaret Green, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is still, as always, of paramount importance. Routine practices remain unchanged. The yearly reviewed Safeguarding Policy, agreed upon by the PCC, is on display in church as is the booklet, "Promoting a Safer Church" and photographs of the Safeguarding Team, which consists of Rev'd James McGowan, Jeannette Welch, Margaret Johnson, and myself as Safeguarding Officer. Information on Safeguarding and the Safeguarding website, where there are useful telephone numbers and where I can be contacted, can be seen on the church website at www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk and my contact details are also on the Sunday service sheet. Any Safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and reported to the DSO and support will be given to those in need.

Anyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults and all members of the PCC are DBS checked, the criminal record check Declaration and Baring Service, which has to be renewed every five years. All our DBS checks are up to date.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Carol Butler and her team are constantly in touch with any new information, courses to attend, or warnings of suspicious activities anywhere in the Diocese to be aware of, and I report on these to the PCC where Safeguarding is on every agenda. Safe recruitment is taken seriously and courses are available and encouraged.

Safeguarding Dashboards is a resource we are now using. It is specially designed and now being used in 2,000 churches in 24 Diocese throughout the Church of England. It shows the status of the individual church safeguarding at a glance. Green lights being reassurance that all is well and up to date. Amber light highlights action to be taken. Red shows where urgent action is needed. It reminds when policies need to be renewed or tasks need to be completed. As well as keeping individual churches up to date and showing this at a glance, the diocesan safeguarding team can also see and focus their support where it is most needed.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader

Easter 2021 we were finally allowed to return to face-to-face Scouting once again, much to the relief of the young people and leaders alike. It was so lovely to be able to see the young people in the flesh and it was so obvious that they were pleased to be back. One of the first activities we took part in was a Scout district sports activity event at Dilston, near Corbridge, on the wettest of days but it was such a fantastic day, in the fresh air with young people and no masks! Initially we were in smaller groups on the return to face to face but in September we were able to welcome back all of the young people. We are fortunate to have wonderful outside space to use with the young people and reduce the risks from Covid although for a while there was hardly a week went passed without an email letting us know that one of the children had tested positive.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. We were so delighted when Rick was awarded the Award of Merit and Liz the Chief Scouts Commendation award which they received in November, presented during Beavers by our County Commissioner. I was incredibly honoured to be awarded The Silver Acorn medal which I also received in November. We are still short of leaders for our Scout section, we have two wonderful students currently supporting Scouts, but University commitments and their own sporting activities mean they are not always able to attend. If you are someone you know is aware of anyone who might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, thank you.

Take care and stay safe everyone *Carol*

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer

The traditional pattern of lent and advent study groups continued to be disrupted by COVID restrictions. The Sunday service patterns settled into a new routine with the cessation of the 8am service and the introduction of a 5:30pm service, usually evening prayer.

The Church continued to be opened most days and received a regular number of visitors throughout the week who use the space for quiet reflection.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

*(a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;
and*

(b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

(a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;

(c) an actual communicant;

(d) 21 years of age or upwards;

(e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).

Agenda

1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1

2) Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting **Appendix 2**
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Election of
 - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)
 - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*
- 5) Appointment of Auditor
- 6) Report on the proceedings of the Church Council
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) Treasurer's Report **Accounts attached in appendix 3**
 - a. Examination of audited accounts
 - b. Statement of funds & property *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) Fabric Report *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.*
- 9) Chairman's Report *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) Any Other Business – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

Appendix 1

Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2021 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting.

All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021 Minutes

**The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)
Sunday 25th April 2021
During 10am Service in Church
Minutes of Meeting**

1. Present & Apologies for Absence APCM 2021

PRESENT: Revd James McGowan (Chair), Nicki Walter, Margaret Cutting, David Welch, Nigel Welch, Jeanette Welch, Margaret Green, Tony Roberts, Marjorie Rochester, Ruth Rogan, Ellen Omobude-Muns, Niel Soulsby, Lesley Crawford, Charles Wooler, Gillian Cunningham, Bonnie Brinn, Jack Brinn, Carolin McGowan, Margaret Johnson, Joo Li Ng, Simon Davies-Fidler, Jasmine Oaks.

APOLOGIES: None

Attendance 2021

There were 22 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan.

2. Minutes of Last Vestry Meeting at APCM 2020

There were no amendments and were agreed as true & correct:

Proposed by:	Marjorie Rochester
Seconded by:	Gillian Cunningham
All Agreed	

Vestry Meeting - Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting. There being no other nominations these two appointments were:

Proposed: Ruth Rogan

Seconded: Margaret Johnson

Agreed by all. Therefore both were duly elected.

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the previous APCM on 15th March 2020

There being no amendments these were agreed and signed as true and correct by Revd James McGowan.

Proposed: Joo Li Ng

Seconded: Marjorie Rochester

ALL AGREED

The Agenda, previous minutes from APCM on 15th March 2020, reports and the Financial Statement of Accounts for 2020 from Tim Bradbury (Treasurer) which were printed in the form of a Booklet and distributed to all on the Electoral Roll in advance of the 2021 APCM, are available and will be stored in the Church including these minutes.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 15th March 2020.

4. Election of:

a. Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

As 2 representatives had been elected at the previous APCM in 2020 and they stand for a 3year term, the next Election for Deanery Synod Representatives will take place at the APCM in 2023.

b. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Bonnie Brinn was due to step down following a 3year term on the PCC. Bonnie had indicated she would be willing to stand again for another 3year term. There being no other nominations this appointment was:

Proposed by: Nigel Welch

Seconded by: Charles Wooler

Agreed by all

c. Sidespersons/Welcomers

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with Section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Unfortunately due to ill health Alan Torrance has relinquished this role. Jane Makepeace was nominated which was agreed by all at a previous PCC meeting. Jane has agreed to stand again as Examiner of Accounts for 2021.

Proposed by: Charles Wooler

Seconded by: Niel Soulsby

AGREED BY ALL

6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this document to be taken as such a report (attached). The report was also posted on the church website.

7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts - (Jan-Dec 2020)

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC Meeting which were then independently examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

8. Fabric Report

This was reported in the booklet (attached). JMc also gave a brief summary during the meeting.

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

9. Chairman's Report

This was presented in the form of a video as a "Review of the Year 2020" during the Service. The Vicars Report is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were Invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

There followed a vote to accept **Items: 7, 8, 9:**

Proposed by: Nicki Walter

Seconded by: Bonnie Brinn

ALL AGREED

Revd James McGowan concluded by announcing:

- Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader 82nd Newcastle Scout Troop has been awarded the “Silver Acorn” this is a special award for 20years distinguished Service in Scouting. The 82nd Scout Group is our resident Scout Group which is the largest in the west of Newcastle. Carol has provided a report which is also featured in the booklet (attached). Their first meeting back in the Church Hall was this Friday 23rd April on St Georges Day. Congratulations were noted & extended to Carol in her absence from the Parish.
- Thanked all for allowing the APCM Meeting to take place during the 10am Service rather than having a separate meeting at another date and time. Also that the PCC remains open to people who are welcome as observers and to make comments on matters although if they are not elected will be unable to vote. This invitation was extended to show transparency with church business over the year ahead.

Next PCC Meeting: Wednesday 5th May at 7pm in Church

10. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed

Jeanette Welch

Secretary to PCC

Appendix 3

Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2021, together with the financial statements for 2021. *NB at the time of printing, these statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are ‘received’ and then are later ‘approved’ at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before the 31st May 2020 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.*

Employee Pensions Liability

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) - December 2021 Year End

The Parish of St James and St Basil, Fenham participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Parish participates in and offers Pensions through the Pension Builder 2014 scheme.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish of St James and St Basil, Fenham could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Assets

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

32 Auburn Gardens

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent and the Bishop of Newcastle.

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Voluntary Receipts										
Donations received	5088	0	500	758	4934	165	1000	4870	137	17452
Collections	947	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	947
Planned Giving	16135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16135
Gift aid tax received	5507	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5507
Grants received	0	0	4005	10000	0	0	0	3250	0	17255
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	27677	0	4505	10758	4934	165	1000	8120	137	57296
Receipts from Charitable Activities										
Fees	7305	0	0	0	315	31	0	0	0	7651
Rent	50	5961	12625	0	250	0	0	0	0	18886
Charitable Activity Receipts	241	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	326
Cafe	1284	0	0	0	0	9855	0	0	0	11139
Choir subs	0	0	0	0	4934	0	0	0	0	4934
Concert income	170	0	0	0	5278	37	0	0	0	5485
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	9050	5961	12625	0	10777	9923	0	85	0	48421
Receipts from Investments										
Interest received	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Receipts										
Miscellaneous receipts	1561	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	1601
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1561	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	1601

Fundraising Costs

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Social Events	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(110)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(110)
Charitable Activities Costs										
Heat, Light and Power	6812	14	3927	0	0	0	0	0	0	10753
Maintenance	3477	342	0	0	1896	0	0	0	0	5715
Grounds Maintenance	917	0	0	6166	0	0	0	0	0	7083
Insurance	0	211	0	6041	0	0	0	0	0	6252
Development	0	0	2070	0	0	0	0	0	0	2070
Worship	5223	0	0	0	2897	0	0	0	0	8120
Diocesan fees	3563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3563
Parish Share	20000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20000
Consultancy	3733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3733
Consultancy expenses	0	0	3210	0	0	0	0	0	0	3210
Clergy Expenses	3539	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3539
Council Tax	2043	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2071
Water rates	659	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	659
Volunteer expenses	627	0	0	0	0	840	0	0	0	1467
Cafe expenses	0	0	0	0	0	701	0	0	0	701
Office costs	2559	0	264	0	0	0	0	0	0	2823
Printing & stationery	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179
Publicity costs	0	0	0	0	522	0	0	0	0	522
Music expenses	0	0	0	0	11553	0	0	3795	0	15348
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(53331)	(595)	(9471)	(12207)	(16868)	(1541)	0	(3795)	0	(97808)
Governance Costs										
Sum up charges	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	458
Bank charges	265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	265
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(723)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(723)

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Costs										
Miscellaneous costs	4020	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4070
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(4020)	(50)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(4070)
Transfers										
Transfers between funds	2827	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2827)	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(2827)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2827	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts/payments	(22722)	5316	7659	(1449)	(1157)	8547	1000	7277	137	4608
Cash funds at start of year	630	4217	9150	-9278	5417	10456	2000	-2827	3437	23202
Cash funds at end of year	-22091	9533	16808	-10727	4260	19003	3000	4450	3575	27810

AS A NEW YEAR STARTS WE
PRAY THAT SOON OUR
FAMILIES MIGHT GATHER
AGAIN IN LOVE, JOY AND
PEACE.





**SATURDAY 11TH
SEPT 10-2PM**

**FOOD FETE AT ST
JAMES AND ST BASIL**

St James and St Basil's
Church, Fenham Hall Drive,
NE4 9XP

grate

The Olive Store

F&L EQUINOX
PALE ALE
4.7% ABV

LOVE LEA







The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham

Annual Meetings & Reports 2021



www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2021

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2021. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on Palm Sunday, the 10th April 2022 as part of the main 10am service.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

On reflection, 2021 was a more challenging year than the previous one. On the one hand COVID remained with us with its changing landscape of rules and restrictions and of course illness and tragedy. On the other, the various assistance schemes, clear direction and order were withdrawn as we learned to live with the situation that we found ourselves in.

The parish finances found themselves on their own – 2021 saw less public funding available, and some of our Pre-Covid activity did not restart.

You'll see that the Parish weathered the storm once again. More than this, we saw several new projects and partnerships begin and we embarked on a process of sharing initial concepts for further development with the wider community. As always, I note my thanks to all who share in this wider vision and effort to create a space of open doors and welcome. I particularly recognise the considerable efforts of Nicki and Margaret our Churchwardens; companions in dreaming the dreams and keeping me in order!

Tim and Jeanette were both reappointed for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively. They have both continue to help manage the processes and administration of our parish with care and insight.

These pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish. I trust you will see within them our wider hope to be a 'Parish that welcomes all, without exception'.

On a personal note, many of you will know of my period of illness towards the end of 2021. Unexpected surgery and the recovery that followed filled the final months of the year, meaning something things simply didn't happen as they might have. What was very much appreciated in this time was the space, the love and care that was shown to me and my family from across the parish.

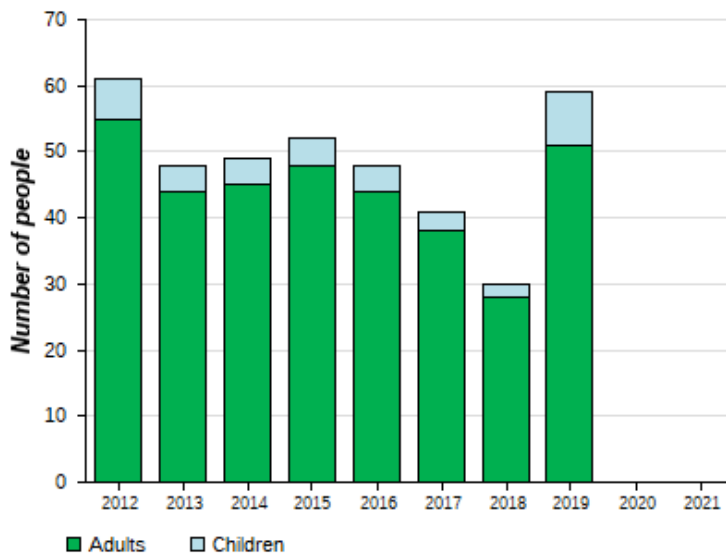
I sit compiling this report on the Feast of the Annunciation. The day remembered as the occasion of the announcement of the coming of God made flesh – namely 9 months before Christmas (!) and of Mary's role as the *Theotokos*, the God bearer. Our Parish continues to be a place where the hope of individual encounters with God might take place, perhaps without tradition, form or agenda and through welcome, hospitality and creativity. As we continue to play our part in this may we long recognise our role as the *God bearers* in Fenham and beyond.

James ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 25th March 2021 *Feast of the Annunciation*

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 78 (2020 = 83)

Usual Sunday Attendance, (2012-2021)



The Usual Sunday Attendance would normally include those present at all of our services, the 10am, 5:30pm and the occasions when the African Congregation meet, Baptisms are held or seasonal services take place. Given the exceptional circumstances, the Church of England is omitting the figures returned for 2020 and 2021 from its data analysis.

Attendance during 2021 is hard to calculate. Our services were

streamed online and held in person. These services do provide statistical analysis of participation, but as people joined late, left early, technology let us down (!), or viewed services during the week it is difficult to give an average 'real' figure that is useful for comparison.

The average attendance of people in church each Sunday was 39 (including all services held).

Easter Day 2021

2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

2020 = Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

2019 = Attendance in the Parish – 80

Christmas 2021 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174**

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

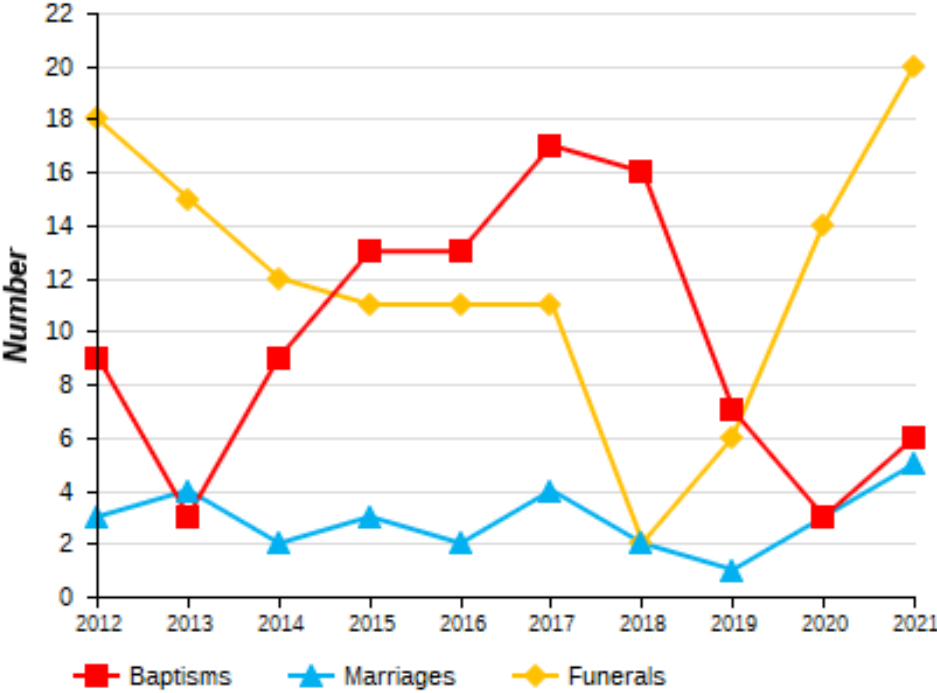
** numbers limited due to Social Distancing Measures in place, though we had 'waiting lists' in place for some services.

October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes ‘non average’ attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. In 2020 and 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were in place, these figures also do not include anyone joining or viewing online.

2017 = 94 2018 = 44 2019 = 74 2020 = 44 2021 = 39

In 2021 5 weddings, 20 funerals and 6 baptisms were held in the Parish.
 These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2012-2021)



Administration, publicity and website.

In 2021 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary) and Niel Soulsby supporting our online presence. Without wanted to simply repeat comments in previous years, it is noted that administration takes up a significant amount of time and whilst we continue to develop processes and systems that help a little, there are many hours given weekly to answer emails, letters, phone calls, messages on social media and the like.

Our online presence continues to grow as our virtual 'shop window' to both the local community and further afield. In 2021, our webpage was accessed 28,293 times by 9,102 unique users, this represents a 62% increase over 2020. Our Facebook community ended the year with almost 700 people 'following' us. Our Vimeo page (video streaming platform) was viewed 2,356 times with an average view time of 29 minutes. These virtual tools continue to be an important way of connecting with local groups and networks to promote events and concerts and to include people in our shared worship and life together.

Bells *from the Tower Captain, Joanne Ayre.*

Bellringing cautiously recommenced in the summer, with Sunday service ringing initially then the introduction of practices fortnightly on Tuesdays. No learners were recruited at this point due to the 1-2-1 requirements of learning to ring. The advanced "first Wednesday of the month" practices have not yet recommenced. A peal had been pencilled in for the 90th anniversary of the first peal on the bells in August 2021, however because of the time ringers had been unable to ring before this date, a quarter peal was rung instead.

A peal by a visiting band was rung in November, which was the first since summer 2019. Fortnightly practices seem to be working well with good attendance. We continue to be supported by other local church bell ringers on Sunday mornings, and going forward recruitment of new ringers will be considered once restrictions are lifted more permanently,

Café *from Margaret Cutting*

The cafe reopened in February 2021, after the Christmas 2020 lockdown. We decided to try a new time slot on a Saturday morning and apart from an extended break over Christmas 2021 it has been open every week. Although Saturdays were fairly popular, to relieve the pressure on the church at the weekends when other events take place, in January 2022 it moved back to Thursday morning, where it began 7 years ago. During the summer a Farmers Market was held once a month in the gardens, with a Christmas Market in the hall in December. These were very well attended and boosted our income.

To comply with government guidelines a takeaway service was in place for most of the year but as restrictions lifted we extended our facilities to include indoors and have recently reintroduced the use of crockery and cutlery to reduce the use of disposables.

None of this would be possible without the help of our volunteers who willingly give their time to help serve and clear up. Thank you so much for all your help. Particular thanks to Joo Li and Nicki who share the baking and provide delicious cakes each week. We would like, and need, to add to our happy band so if you can help us occasionally in the cafe please contact Margaret Cutting to add your name to our rota. You do not need to be a member of the congregation as the cafe is a community facility.

Children and Young People

The Wonder Club, our bi-monthly Sunday School, did not return in 2021. A combination of COVID restrictions and lack of leaders meant that any restart would have led to a 'hit and miss' pattern which was not felt to be helpful. It is hoped that this will re-group in 2022, particularly as some of our younger babies and toddlers grow a little older.

Our weekly *Toddler's Music Group* was renamed 'Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs' and restarted as soon as restrictions would permit in the early summer. A new leader led the sessions on a Saturday day morning, initially in the Parish and then continuing until Christmas in the Church. Unfortunately, as the year ended it became clear that our leader couldn't commit to a move back to Thursday and so we ended the term with a renewed search for a leader with an ever-growing contact list of parents and carers eager to sing.

In the summer and early autumn, the Vicar helped to lead the youth group and confirmation class at Holy Cross Fenham during their period of Vacancy as the community at there awaited the arrival of their new minister.

Deanery Synod Report *from Margaret Green*

Rachel Gill and I were appointed as the West Deanery Synod Representatives at the APGM in 2020, so this year is the final year of our three year term. Due to Covid restrictions meetings have continued to be held on Zoom. Pre-Pandemic they were held quarterly but this has not been possible this last year. We have met twice, in June and September, and contact is maintained over the internet. In August a picnic was held in the garden of St. James and St. Basil's, Fenham, followed by a service in celebration of Creation.

At the meetings, which are chaired by the Area Dean, Rev'd Christine Brown, we hear news from around the parish, and reports from the Diocesan Synod, the Treasurer and the Deanery Development Group. This year we have also been

involved in the elections of new Diocesan and General Synod members. News of General Synod meetings can be found on the internet.

Through a video we heard how when Bishop Alec Graham came to Newcastle in 1982 he found a number of churches were inward looking rather than outward. Last year the Very Rev'd Mark Wroe, the then Archdeacon of Northumberland, talked to the Deanery Synod about the Diocesan's outward looking vision of a "Growing Church, Bringing Hope" and of his hope that parishes would be able to find ways to work together to implement this vision. A Diocesan-wide Group has been looking at ways in which this can be achieved and this will be by a process, entitled "the Next Steps" which was also explained on the video. As a result of answers from questionnaires five different types of community,- urban, suburban, deprived suburban, rural and market town have been considered, from three perspectives,- community, worshipping congregations, and ministry, and from the results obtained certain areas for change have been identified. The plan for the future is explained in the video and the five areas for change identified,- leadership development and training, change ministers, mission coaching teams, community children and youth, and operational support. Parishes will be asked to self review by completing questionnaires.

The Director of Mission and Ministry, Canon Rob Saner-Haigh, spoke to the June Deanery Synod Meeting about the "The Next Steps" but he said we should not worry about what it might entail for us; there are many other things needing our attention such as Safeguarding, living in love and faith and he reminded us of good things that are already happening such as the distribution of food parcels and work with the Farsi Community.

At the July Synod the newly appointed Archdeacon of Northumberland, the Rev'd Canon Rachel Wood, said she saw her job as one of help and support for parishes in their mission and working alongside them. She said she would be working with the national church to see through the process of appointing our next Bishop. Other dioceses are in vacancy at this time and we are fourth in line. The September meeting was Rev'd Canon Christine Brown's last as Area Dean for the West Newcastle Deanery. In December Rev'd James McGowan was appointed as the next Area Dean.

From the wider Deanery

Fr Niel Heslop (former curate at Js & Bs and Priest in Charge of Sugely) was also appointed as Priest in Charge of Denton. Fr Alan Paterson (Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall) announced his appointment as Priest in Charge at Wallsend. Fr Waldemar Nion (curate at Cowgate) was appointed halftime Priest in Charge of

Chapel House.

Holy Cross welcomed The Revd Dan McCarthy as Interim Minister on a fixed term, three-year appointment. This followed a vacancy of almost four years and is intended to give the Parish there an opportunity to review and consider their long term future in a little more detail.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every six years the Electoral Roll is renewed and in the intervening years it is revised to bring it up to date. The next renewal will be in 2025,

This year we welcome one new member, -Dr Margaret Reid.

We remember with love those who have died over this last year, Joan Duckett, Gordon Kinghorn and Thelma Hepple. With their loss and that of members who have moved away and, or who, are no longer able to attend, plus our new member, we now have 78 members on the Roll.

As Margaret joined before 20th March 2022, at least two weeks before the APGM, she will be able to vote at the meeting. Anyone wishing to be on the Electoral Roll may do so after 20th March but will not be able to vote until the APGM next year.

In view of the confidentiality and privacy regulations the Electoral Roll is no longer displayed in church but is kept in the church safe and members may see their own entry on request

Engagement with Schools

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2021. Dame Allan's School also used the church to record several concerts and events. In September 2021, a new student wellbeing hub opened at the school. Known as 'The Snug', this area now includes dedicated space for the Chaplain, School Counsellor and Psychotherapy Team and is a further significant step in the provision of pastoral support for students at the Schools.

2021 saw the return of school visits to the Church, and as the year ended we welcomed Dame Allan's juniors as part of their curriculum visit and dates were in the diary for sessions with students from Wingrove Primary.

The Vicar continued to serve on the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust) and as a Director of the Pele Academy Trusts (whose schools serve the outer west of the city and Ponteland and it's surrounding villages).

Fabric

No significant works were undertaken in 2021. Some minor repairs and maintenance were carried out.

Church

Routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ continued to receive its regular visits from Woods of Huddersfield.

The final Quinquennial Report (carried out in 2020) was received early in 2021. This detailed some minor repairs that will be carried out as time and resources allow. There was a cautionary note about the Tower Roof and the condition of some high level pointing, whilst this wasn't unexpected the formal notice of this problem will be something that PCC need address within the current and next Quinquennium.

Towards the end of the year, in preparation for Advent and Christmas the carpet in the Sanctuary area was removed. Like the carpet in the Chancel (removed in 2020), this had become a trip hazard and was badly stained. The carpets are rolled and stored in a dry condition in the church basement for the time being. The stone floors have been cleaned and the timber dais under the high altar has been cleaned and varnished.

Minor work, adaptation and addition to the AV system continued through the year.

In the summer months our Church Chandeliers were all lowered and cleaned by volunteers. The opportunity was taken to rewire some of the damaged sections of crystals, and all were converted to LED lamps in an effort to reduce our electricity costs and carbon footprint.

Fabric – Hall (including hall users)

Routine servicing continued in 2021.

In the early months of 2021 activity slowly returned to the hall.

Concerns about the Ravenside Preschool were noted in last year's report. This had operated in the hall for over 30 years as an entirely separate business and charity to the church; the parish served only as 'landlord'. The Preschool initially reopened but struggled to find a sustainable client group. Changing demographics and limitations on provision meant that the preschool closed soon after February half term. It did not re-open. In March and April, the preschool equipment and resources were removed from the site.

Two of the toilets were redecorated together with the ‘middle room’ (which had been an equipment store for the preschool. The Middle Room was furnished with chairs (taken from the upper vestry) and some furniture that had been in long term store in the church basement. The collection of Knott family portraits together with the mounted medals of James and Basil were displayed in this room; a room that soon became affectionately known as the ‘Sir James Knott Lounge’! The room is now used as a small meeting room and is rented for two days per week by a local Psychotherapist who uses this space as a therapy room for their clients.

The old kitchen (also a former preschool store) was redecorated and is used as a second small kitchen and ‘brew bar’.

The old cupboards in the upper landing were removed and the floor and walls repaired. This area, together with the upper room, is now let as studio space to a local florist and artist. Over the year the use of this space increased to include drawing classes and small group yoga.

The under-stage room (also a preschool store) was cleared, and new electric sockets were installed. This area was let as a second studio space and is currently occupied by a local joiner.

Our three new ‘resident’ businesses (Artist, Joiner and Psychotherapist) have given the hall the beginnings of a new chapter of life that we hope to see grow further in the coming months and years.

In last year’s report, it was reported that the PCC had received initial sketches of a proposal to refurbish the hall. In the early part of the year further drawings and details were provided for consideration. In the late summer and early autumn, an informal process of local consultation began and two ‘drop-in sessions’ were held. Feedback from the local community will be considered by the PCC in 2022 and we will seek the advice of our architect as our consultation and development continues.

Finance *From Tim Bradbury (Treasurer)*

With the gradual lifting of restrictions, return of the café and an increase in hall rental income, the last financial year has been “okay”. Again, we didn’t pay all our parish share. The £4020 miscellaneous expense in the general fund was for some legal expenses which, rather than the Diocese re-imbursing us for they advised that we could deduct the amount from our parish share payments. In addition, a £6000 parish share payment for the 2021 financial year was made in January 2022 and does not appear in the 2021 accounts giving a total parish share payment of

£30,000 which is the same as 2020. Concerts and other music events are also starting up again so this should further boost our income in the coming year. On the good news front, we fixed our energy prices just over a year ago and this contract doesn't finish until mid/late 2023 so we are currently protected from the large increase in prices from April and also from any further increase in October. Our reserve funds are a little lower than I would like, and we will need to keep a close eye on our financial position over the next few months, but I am hopeful that it should start to improve, along with the weather!

Gardens

In 2021 the Gardens continued to be a sanctuary for local folk. The independent Gardening Group passed a resolution to close at their annual meeting in 2021. This was partly in recognition of their achievement of re-establishing the Gardens for the local community since the group's beginning in 2015, and in part due to the significant workload now falling on fewer volunteers. The Group kindly transferred their remain assets of £329.59 to the PCC towards the ongoing costs of the gardens. The Parish remains indebted to all the volunteers who have given time over the years to reclaiming the gardens for the local community.

In 2021, the PCC increased the hours of our paid gardener, Penny Hunter who continued to work in the Church Gardens, whilst some of the more routine 'labour' – like cutting the grass – was taken over by the Vicarage household. The footpaths continue to present a significant area of risk. COVID restrictions and the market conditions that followed meant it became very difficult to find contractors who would visit the site to quote for the work. The PCC did continue to investigate and prepare for future works – more detailed surveys of drainage were undertaken.

The Js & Bs Kiosk continued as an open-air takeaway café until lockdown restrictions meant that this was able to relocate indoors.

The once magnificent Cherry Tree at the end of garden (next to number 30 Auburn Gardens) finally became too badly diseased and a decision was taken to fell this tree before it caused accident or damage, this work was carried out just days before the autumn storms arrived.

Godly Play

The resources stored in church for the Cathedral during it's period of closure have now been given to the Parish on permanent loan. The Northeast Godly Play Network met twice during the year in church when COVID restrictions permitted.

Several of our more informal services included Godly Play in the ‘sermon slot’. This gave space for the congregation to simply hear the narrative from scripture and the opportunity to share and learn together. One notable occasion was our crib service on Christmas Eve where over 80 people gathered together to hear the Advent Story as they all participated in creating a large Advent Wreath and nativity scene which remained in church throughout the Christmas Season.

Hospitality

The parish mission to *Welcome all without exception* continued to be seen lived out through Coffee, Tea, Cake, Bacon Sandwiches (and on many occasions, something stronger, as the church wine cellar – actually a cupboard – saw a good deal of action).

The Church Kitchen is holding up well, though it is starting to show its age in some areas and some pieces of equipment are beginning to need regular ‘fettling’.

In the second half of the year, it was great to host a number of Fenham Food markets in the Church Garden in partnership with the Fenham Bakery. These boosted our coffers and introduced many new friends.

Jazz @ Js & Bs from Tony Roberts

During the summer we were able to stage some great concerts as part of the music in the garden series. They included pianist Dean Stockdale and vocalist Alice Grace both making their 3rd visit to Js&Bs. Plus some great vocalising from Jude Murphy and Lindsay Hannon. Later in the year we were able to put on three evening gigs which went off pretty well with Abbie Finn, Nicola Farnon and Alter Ego.

Liturgy & Worship

2021 saw a return to a more normal pattern of services. The Parish voluntarily ceased public worship for the first weeks of 2021, and we returned to church in early February with a public weekly service of Morning Prayer. We restarted Communion on Easter Sunday, and congregational singing restarted later in the year.

The custom of holding Evening Prayer at 5:30pm (rather than an early morning service) continued throughout the year. On occasions a service of Holy Communion is held in place of Evening Prayer.

2021 saw the continued practice of producing individual service booklets

containing all the hymn words, liturgy, and notices & news. This reduced the need to share materials and allowed a little more flexibility each week. By the end of the year most people now received their copy in church on a Sunday, though a small number continued to be delivered. The weekly sheet is also available to download from our website by Saturday morning each week.

Main Sunday services continued to be streamed online to our Vimeo page. Funerals and weddings were also streamed around the world to families on private pages as COVID restrictions continued to prevent travel.

2021 saw a more mixed use of the High Altar and Nave Altar. Feedback from members of the congregation suggested that the variety was valued and we hope to continue this in future months and years.

Music

Sunday Mornings

This year saw a welcome return to singing in the church and services were led by the (newly renamed) St James Consort, Sanctuary Voices and Fenham Ensemble. Charles Wooler left us in the Autumn leading to a different pattern to our services: a rota of visiting organists has been established with Simon cantoring when appropriate. The Consort continues to lead the first service of every month, sometimes with piano accompaniment.

Newcastle Phoenix Choir

In August 2021 we launched Newcastle Phoenix Choir, rehearsing on Friday afternoons in the church. The Phoenix Choir has taken on the work of Streetwise Opera, which stopped working in the north east, earlier in the year. The project has been very successful so far, with almost 40 different people accessing the choir and 20 attending regularly. In December the choir gave its first public performance at Brunswick Methodist Church, at a service dedicated to members of the homeless community who died during the year. Towards the end of the year members of the church community donated money for a set of choir branded hoodies, which have added to the sense of belonging and community within the group. Some members of the church and local communities have been welcomed into the group. The workshops are joyful and uplifting occasions!

J's & B's Singers

Our Monday night choir returned to in-person rehearsals from September and participated in a Christmas concert alongside the choirs of Northumbria University and Newcastle Cathedral, at the newly refurbished cathedral. The choir sang John Rutter's Gloria.

The choir also participated in the Christmas Eve family service at J's & B's. Rehearsals began in January for an Easter performance of Messiah (part 2) and Vivaldi's Gloria.

Happily the choir has returned with even greater numbers than before the pandemic with more joining all the time. Membership at the time of writing is about 65.

Fenham Ensemble also returned to full rehearsals in September after navigating the pandemic with groups of six rehearsals or no rehearsing at all! The autumn culminated in a concert at the church and a very memorable Nine Lessons and Carols service.

After the success of last year's **Summer Concert Series** we hosted another series this summer with many notable performances: The Independence Jazz Trio, Tim Jasper & Friends, The Foundry Jazz Ensemble, Yoshi Kawamura (Peter & The Wolf), Alexandra Raikhlina and The St James Consort, Mark Williams Standards Trio, The Andy May Trio, Landmason & Dark Sky Voices, Dean Stockdale. Trio and Alice Grace Trio.

The series wasn't as well attended this year probably due the poor weather which meant several performances were moved into the church. Also with covid restrictions being relaxed in the summer we were competing with other venues and leisure activities.

The Pandemic again caused a reduction in our evening concert output this year but when restrictions allowed, there were some fantastic events: Northumbrian Pipers Society Concert; Organ Recitals; Brundibár Festival Fundraising Concert; Gail, Bonnie and Mary's Christmas Concert; Opera Dei Lumi; Bob Chilcott Come & Sing Day; Voices of Hope Christmas Concert; Fenham Ensemble Christmas Concert; J's & B's Singers at the Cathedral.

The Children's group - with new branding, **Jellyfish & Bees** - made a return with a new slot on Saturday mornings, led by Carol Bowden. The Autumn saw a drop in numbers and the decision to move the group back to Thursdays along with the cafe. Unfortunately, Carol was unable to make the switch so we're currently looking for another leader to take the group on.

Equipment and Resources In 2021 some new items included,

A new filter coffee machine in the church kitchen.

LED lamps for the church chandeliers.

6 new tables and 24 chairs for the gardens

Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As reported for a third consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. Likewise, the repairs to the boundary gates and guttering were not carried out by the Diocese in 2021. Joinery work to replace some timber in a number of windows and exterior redecoration was carried out by the Diocese in the Autumn of 2021.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. Investigations were carried out to determine if additional gas fires might be installed, however questions were raised about the gas supply to the house (which is already technically running over capacity). Installation of a new, larger gas main will be expensive and was not felt to be the correct route (as this would inevitably lead to larger gas bills and only serve to increase the carbon footprint of the house).

In the autumn of 2021, the Vicarage household opened a fire in one of the downstairs rooms and carried out works to the corresponding chimney and fireplace.

In 2022, in recognition of the significant cost of heating and the commitment to reduce the Church of England's carbon footprint, the Diocese propose to install smart heating controls and to being a program of works to install secondary glazing to some windows.

The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space.

32 Auburn Gardens

The house owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish. Throughout 2021 the house was let to private tenants.

Throughout the year the catalog of repairs, failures and maintenance issues persisted. This along with a recognition that the house is increasingly dated and in need of update led the PCC to consider the future of the property in more

detail. After taking legal advice, the PCC submitted an application to the Charity Commission to amend the trusts in which the house is held; (the property is currently held in trust specifically for the occupation of an assistant curate). The PCC proposed to relax the trust to permit use of the property by a 'Church Worker' (which might be a musician, youth worker etc), or to sell the property and apply some of the funds to other parochial uses, (whilst retaining enough to buy a replacement, similar property elsewhere in the West of City). It should be noted that PCC did not make a decision to sell the property (as under the existing trust, they already could), but rather that if they did sell the property, they might have more freedom to use the assets differently. By the end of 2021, the PCC were still awaiting a response from the Charity Commission.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of utmost importance

Health and Safety

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, all parish activities now require a written risk assessment to be carried out. Several minor incidents were noted from trips and falls though none caused significant injury or harm.

Safeguarding - from Margaret Green, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is still, as always, of paramount importance. Routine practices remain unchanged. The yearly reviewed Safeguarding Policy, agreed upon by the PCC, is on display in church as is the booklet, "Promoting a Safer Church" and photographs of the Safeguarding Team, which consists of Rev'd James McGowan, Jeannette Welch, Margaret Johnson, and myself as Safeguarding Officer. Information on Safeguarding and the Safeguarding website, where there are useful telephone numbers and where I can be contacted, can be seen on the church website at www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk and my contact details are also on the Sunday service sheet. Any Safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and reported to the DSO and support will be given to those in need.

Anyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults and all members of the PCC are DBS checked, the criminal record check Declaration and Baring Service, which has to be renewed every five years. All our DBS checks are up to date.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Carol Butler and her team are constantly in touch with any new information, courses to attend, or warnings of suspicious activities anywhere in the Diocese to be aware of, and I report on these to the PCC where Safeguarding is on every agenda. Safe recruitment is taken seriously and courses are available and encouraged.

Safeguarding Dashboards is a resource we are now using. It is specially designed and now being used in 2,000 churches in 24 Diocese throughout the Church of England. It shows the status of the individual church safeguarding at a glance. Green lights being reassurance that all is well and up to date. Amber light highlights action to be taken. Red shows where urgent action is needed. It reminds when policies need to be renewed or tasks need to be completed. As well as keeping individual churches up to date and showing this at a glance, the diocesan safeguarding team can also see and focus their support where it is most needed.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader

Easter 2021 we were finally allowed to return to face-to-face Scouting once again, much to the relief of the young people and leaders alike. It was so lovely to be able to see the young people in the flesh and it was so obvious that they were pleased to be back. One of the first activities we took part in was a Scout district sports activity event at Dilston, near Corbridge, on the wettest of days but it was such a fantastic day, in the fresh air with young people and no masks! Initially we were in smaller groups on the return to face to face but in September we were able to welcome back all of the young people. We are fortunate to have wonderful outside space to use with the young people and reduce the risks from Covid although for a while there was hardly a week went passed without an email letting us know that one of the children had tested positive.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. We were so delighted when Rick was awarded the Award of Merit and Liz the Chief Scouts Commendation award which they received in November, presented during Beavers by our County Commissioner. I was incredibly honoured to be awarded The Silver Acorn medal which I also received in November. We are still short of leaders for our Scout section, we have two wonderful students currently supporting Scouts, but University commitments and their own sporting activities mean they are not always able to attend. If you are someone you know is aware of anyone who might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, thank you.

Take care and stay safe everyone *Carol*

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer

The traditional pattern of lent and advent study groups continued to be disrupted by COVID restrictions. The Sunday service patterns settled into a new routine with the cessation of the 8am service and the introduction of a 5:30pm service, usually evening prayer.

The Church continued to be opened most days and received a regular number of visitors throughout the week who use the space for quiet reflection.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- and*
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.*

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- (c) an actual communicant;*
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;*
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).*

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1**
- 2) Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting **Appendix 2**
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Election of
 - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)
 - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*
- 5) Appointment of Auditor
- 6) Report on the proceedings of the Church Council
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) Treasurer's Report **Accounts attached in appendix 3**
 - a. Examination of audited accounts
 - b. Statement of funds & property *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) Fabric Report *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.*
- 9) Chairman's Report *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) Any Other Business – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

Appendix 1

Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2021 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting.

All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021 Minutes

**The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)
Sunday 25th April 2021
During 10am Service in Church
Minutes of Meeting**

1. Present & Apologies for Absence APCM 2021

PRESENT: Revd James McGowan (Chair), Nicki Walter, Margaret Cutting, David Welch, Nigel Welch, Jeanette Welch, Margaret Green, Tony Roberts, Marjorie Rochester, Ruth Rogan, Ellen Omobude-Muns, Niel Soulsby, Lesley Crawford, Charles Wooler, Gillian Cunningham, Bonnie Brinn, Jack Brinn, Carolin McGowan, Margaret Johnson, Joo Li Ng, Simon Davies-Fidler, Jasmine Oaks.

APOLOGIES: None

Attendance 2021

There were 22 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan.

2. Minutes of Last Vestry Meeting at APCM 2020

There were no amendments and were agreed as true & correct:

Proposed by:	Marjorie Rochester
Seconded by:	Gillian Cunningham
All Agreed	

Vestry Meeting - Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting. There being no other nominations these two appointments were:

Proposed: Ruth Rogan

Seconded: Margaret Johnson

Agreed by all. Therefore both were duly elected.

3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the previous APCM on 15th March 2020

There being no amendments these were agreed and signed as true and correct by Revd James McGowan.

Proposed: Joo Li Ng

Seconded: Marjorie Rochester

ALL AGREED

The Agenda, previous minutes from APCM on 15th March 2020, reports and the Financial Statement of Accounts for 2020 from Tim Bradbury (Treasurer) which were printed in the form of a Booklet and distributed to all on the Electoral Roll in advance of the 2021 APCM, are available and will be stored in the Church including these minutes.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 15th March 2020.

4. Election of:

a. Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

As 2 representatives had been elected at the previous APCM in 2020 and they stand for a 3year term, the next Election for Deanery Synod Representatives will take place at the APCM in 2023.

b. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Bonnie Brinn was due to step down following a 3year term on the PCC. Bonnie had indicated she would be willing to stand again for another 3year term. There being no other nominations this appointment was:

Proposed by: Nigel Welch

Seconded by: Charles Wooler

Agreed by all

c. Sidespersons/Welcomers

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with Section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Unfortunately due to ill health Alan Torrance has relinquished this role. Jane Makepeace was nominated which was agreed by all at a previous PCC meeting. Jane has agreed to stand again as Examiner of Accounts for 2021.

Proposed by: Charles Wooler

Seconded by: Niel Soulsby

AGREED BY ALL

6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this document to be taken as such a report (attached). The report was also posted on the church website.

7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts - (Jan-Dec 2020)

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC Meeting which were then independently examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

8. Fabric Report

This was reported in the booklet (attached). JMc also gave a brief summary during the meeting.

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

9. Chairman's Report

This was presented in the form of a video as a "Review of the Year 2020" during the Service. The Vicars Report is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were Invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

There followed a vote to accept **Items: 7, 8, 9:**

Proposed by: Nicki Walter

Seconded by: Bonnie Brinn

ALL AGREED

Revd James McGowan concluded by announcing:

- Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader 82nd Newcastle Scout Troop has been awarded the “Silver Acorn” this is a special award for 20years distinguished Service in Scouting. The 82nd Scout Group is our resident Scout Group which is the largest in the west of Newcastle. Carol has provided a report which is also featured in the booklet (attached). Their first meeting back in the Church Hall was this Friday 23rd April on St Georges Day. Congratulations were noted & extended to Carol in her absence from the Parish.
- Thanked all for allowing the APCM Meeting to take place during the 10am Service rather than having a separate meeting at another date and time. Also that the PCC remains open to people who are welcome as observers and to make comments on matters although if they are not elected will be unable to vote. This invitation was extended to show transparency with church business over the year ahead.

Next PCC Meeting: Wednesday 5th May at 7pm in Church

10. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed

Jeanette Welch

Secretary to PCC

Appendix 3

Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2021, together with the financial statements for 2021. *NB at the time of printing, these statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are ‘received’ and then are later ‘approved’ at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before the 31st May 2020 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.*

Employee Pensions Liability

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) - December 2021 Year End

The Parish of St James and St Basil, Fenham participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Parish participates in and offers Pensions through the Pension Builder 2014 scheme.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish of St James and St Basil, Fenham could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Assets

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

32 Auburn Gardens

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent and the Bishop of Newcastle.

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Voluntary Receipts										
Donations received	5088	0	500	758	4934	165	1000	4870	137	17452
Collections	947	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	947
Planned Giving	16135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16135
Gift aid tax received	5507	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5507
Grants received	0	0	4005	10000	0	0	0	3250	0	17255
	27677	0	4505	10758	4934	165	1000	8120	137	57296
Receipts from Charitable Activities										
Fees	7305	0	0	0	315	31	0	0	0	7651
Rent	50	5961	12625	0	250	0	0	0	0	18886
Charitable Activity Receipts	241	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	326
Cafe	1284	0	0	0	0	9855	0	0	0	11139
Choir subs	0	0	0	0	4934	0	0	0	0	4934
Concert income	170	0	0	0	5278	37	0	0	0	5485
	9050	5961	12625	0	10777	9923	0	85	0	48421
Receipts from Investments										
Interest received	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Receipts										
Miscellaneous receipts	1561	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	1601
	1561	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	1601
Fundraising Costs										

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Social Events	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
	(110)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(110)
Charitable Activities Costs										
Heat, Light and Power	6812	14	3927	0	0	0	0	0	0	10753
Maintenance	3477	342	0	0	1896	0	0	0	0	5715
Grounds Maintenance	917	0	0	6166	0	0	0	0	0	7083
Insurance	0	211	0	6041	0	0	0	0	0	6252
Development	0	0	2070	0	0	0	0	0	0	2070
Worship	5223	0	0	0	2897	0	0	0	0	8120
Diocesan fees	3563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3563
Parish Share	20000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20000
Consultancy	3733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3733
Consultancy expenses	0	0	3210	0	0	0	0	0	0	3210
Clergy Expenses	3539	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3539
Council Tax	2043	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2071
Water rates	659	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	659
Volunteer expenses	627	0	0	0	0	840	0	0	0	1467
Cafe expenses	0	0	0	0	0	701	0	0	0	701
Office costs	2559	0	264	0	0	0	0	0	0	2823
Printing & stationery	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179
Publicity costs	0	0	0	0	522	0	0	0	0	522
Music expenses	0	0	0	0	11553	0	0	3795	0	15348
	(53331)	(595)	(9471)	(12207)	(16868)	(1541)	0	(3795)	0	(97808)
Governance Costs										
Sum up charges	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	458
Bank charges	265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	265
	(723)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(723)

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 07/03/2022

December 2021 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Costs										
Miscellaneous costs	4020	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4070
	(4020)	(50)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(4070)
Transfers										
Transfers between funds	2827	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2827)	0	0
	(2827)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2827	0	0
Net receipts/payments	(22722)	5316	7659	(1449)	(1157)	8547	1000	7277	137	4608
Cash funds at start of year	630	4217	9150	-9278	5417	10456	2000	-2827	3437	23202
Cash funds at end of year	-22091	9533	16808	-10727	4260	19003	3000	4450	3575	27810

AS A NEW YEAR STARTS WE
PRAY THAT SOON OUR
FAMILIES MIGHT GATHER
AGAIN IN LOVE, JOY AND
PEACE.





grate

SATURDAY 11TH
 SEPT 10-2PM

**FOOD FETE AT ST
 JAMES AND ST BASIL**

St James and St Basil's
 Church, Fenham Hall Drive,
 NE4 9XP

The Olive Store

LOVE LEA

EQUINOX
 PALE ALE
 4.76 ABV







Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

St James' and St Basil's PCC

On accounts for the year ended

31/12/2021

Charity no (if any)

1184511

Set out on pages

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
• the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Jane Makepeace

Date: 25.4.22

Name: JANE MAKEPEACE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

[Empty box for professional qualification]

Accounts



The Parish of St James and St Basil
Fenham



Annual Meetings & Reports 2020

www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

The Parish of St James and St Basil, Fenham is a registered Charity in England and Wales,
no. 1184511

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2020

The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2020.

This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on the 25th April 2021 as part of the main 10am service.

The contents of this report are to be taken as the Report of the Proceedings of the PCC under item 6 of the Agenda.

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Introduction & Vicar's Report

In the Annual report last year, I noted that *'I am all the more aware that the efforts of today cannot be just for the here and now.'* The implication being that we might need to change and develop with the future in mind. I am not sure that anyone could have anticipated the level of change that would have been faced in 2020 with the spread of COVID19. The year was a constantly changing landscape of regulation and rules, frequently interspersed with human loss and tragedy, along with some of the best of humanity as many in our community rediscovered what it meant to be in a community together.

A bold decision was taken early on the pandemic that Js & Bs would not close and self-mothball until the storm passed. New ways of working would be found, funding would be accessed (somehow), and God willing we would arrive on the other side of the storm better placed to emerge than when we entered. You will see in the detail of this report, that this was certainly the case.

Our buildings saw greater investment than at any time in recent years, our support of local musicians continued, and importantly our engagement with our community took a great leap forward – almost always without agenda, save that great statement in John 10:10, *I have come that you might have life and have it in all its fullness.*

As the Vicar of the Anglican Church in this part of Newcastle, I am proud to be here, even slightly (and sinfully!) smug when some of my counterparts in other parishes note our lack of a Daily Mass (with a snigger), or point out errors in liturgical practice or doctrine – but I don't really care! Js & Bs is a community that wherever possible seeks life in all its fullness for all who we encounter, without further agenda or ambition, though the Grace of God may do other things. Our human focus here and now is to be an open and hospitable presence, confident of our roots, willing to embrace difference, respectful of diversity and ambitious for what community life in Fenham might be if we can do our bit to make it ever 'fuller' for all who come our way.

Human life in all its fullness is what God intended for all of creation. Human life is also very fragile; how we have been reminded of that this year?

Some of our oldest members this year passed away. Amongst them, faithful Bob Cockburn and gracious and gentle Ena Helmich. Bob for many years dutifully

managed the Parish Hall, often staying beyond midnight to clear up after lettings and was regularly seen up a ladder (to the horror of churchwardens). In my time here, Ena's illness meant that she and I never really had any conversation; but her friendships and relationships, and particularly on occasion, the smile and look in her eye conveyed a warm embrace that was amongst the very first of welcomes that I received when I arrived in the winter of 2019. It was an honour to be able to lead their funerals and share in those moments with their families.

I should rightly note my thanks to our Churchwardens too, to Nicki and Margaret. Despite being volunteers, they faced the past year with me every step of the way, and it has been mentally and physically exhausting for all sorts of different reasons. They have both been honest critical friends, wise council, not afraid to tell me to be quiet – the ideal qualities that the Bishop needs in Wardens. Nicki and Margaret will (hopefully) complete their fifth year as Churchwardens in 2021/22. They will have seen the departure of one Vicar and the arrival of the next. They have led a church through an interregnum (and global pandemic), and they have been part of the embryonic visioning for what might be exciting years of development ahead.

Tim and Jeanette have both served the parish as officers of the PCC once again in this past year. They have both ensured a degree of due diligence and prudent management have taken place, and I am grateful for their efforts to stay one step ahead of me in either organisation or spending!

Niel, as you will read, has given endless hours of experiment, trial and error to the development of our online presence and audio/video technology. Together with the efforts of Simon and Charles, it seems that new opportunities are now just around the corner. Thank you all for your creativity, generosity and commitment.

In a year of great loss and tragedy, I wish also note on record my thanks to the Directors and Staff at John Bardgett and Sons. Their work load this year has particularly difficult, and yet their support and friendship professionally (and personally) has been a great gift that I have been frequently thankful for.

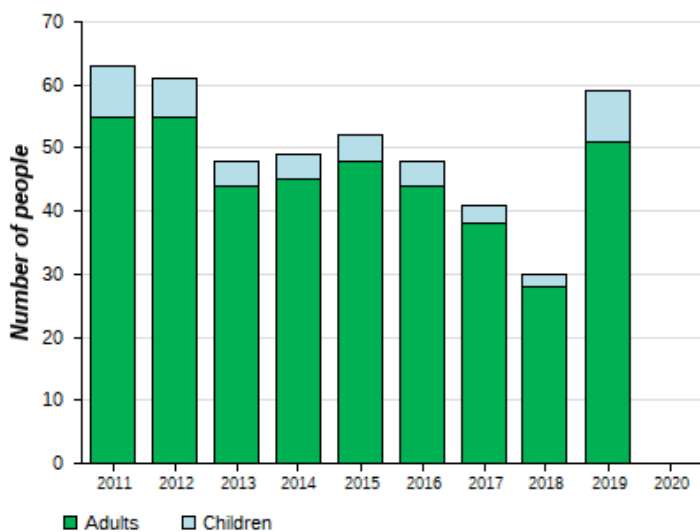
I began the year optimistic: my first full year in a new parish, and in parts, it turned into trial by COVID. I am now more familiar than I need to be with Government Policy, Risk Assessment, Tax and Grant Schemes, (and it turns out I'm quite good with a floor polisher); above all I am particularly thankful that I

didn't walk the last year alone. To all of you who have been part of life here, and to my wife Caroline, our children George and Aida, thank you for friendship, love and care in this year that has be very demanding and yet often so very rewarding. With sincere thanks and continued prayer,
James ~ ~ ~ ~ ~April 2020

A snapshot of attendance and membership

Parish Electoral Roll = 83 (2019 = 85)

Usual Sunday Attendance, (2011-2020)



The Usual Sunday Attendance would normally include those present at all of our services, the 8am, the 10am, and the occasions when the African Congregation meet, Baptisms are held or seasonal services take place. Given the exceptional circumstances, the Church of England is omitting the figures returned for 2020 from its data analysis. Attendance during 2020 is hard to calculate. For a significant part of the year our services were online and used a combination of Zoom, YouTube and Facebook live. These services do provide statistical analysis of participation, but as people joined late, left early, technology let us down (!), or viewed services during the week it is difficult to give an average ‘real’ figure that is useful for comparison.

Easter Day 2020

Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

2019 = Attendance in the Parish – 80

Christmas 2020 (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish – 174*

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

*numbers limited due to Social Distancing Measures in place, though we had ‘waiting lists’ in place for some services.

October Count Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services. This figure excludes ‘non average’ attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. In October 2020, this figure only includes those present at services ‘in person’.

2017 = 94

2018 = 44

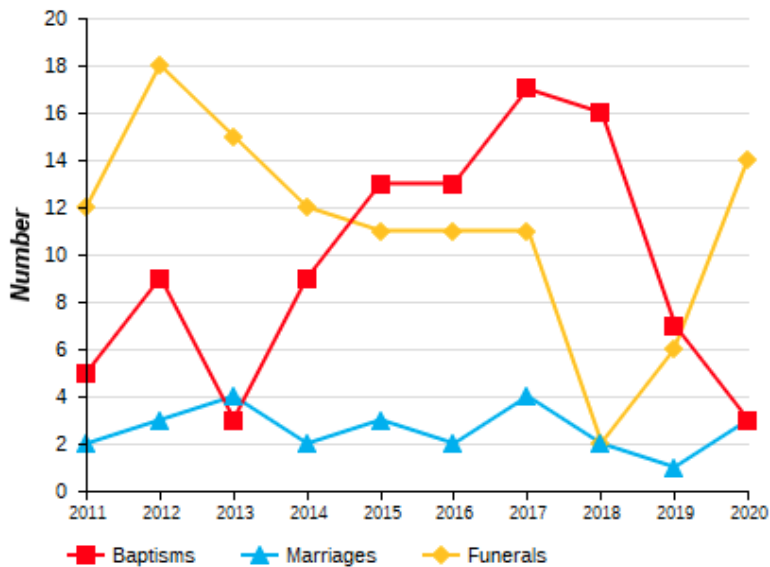
2019 = 74

2020 = 44

In 2020 3 weddings, 14 funerals and 3 baptisms were held in the Parish.

These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.

Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2011-2020)



Administration, publicity and website.

In 2020 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary) and Niel Soulsby (as web developer).

It remains that a significant amount of the Vicar’s time continues to be taken up with administration and management, and this will continue to increase as an ever-growing burden of record keeping and accountability continues to reflect

the culture and society that we live in, particularly in the past year with the extra burden of increased Risk Assessment and project management.

In the last annual report, it was noted that we intended to bring our website back 'in house'. This work began early in the year, but the real changes took place at the very start of the Lockdown period. This was an essential step in order that we could continue to have a creative presence online. The Current Site was developed by Niel Soulsby and is a Wordpress based site with some background functionality linked to Google's GSuite. It has the ability to host ticket sales for events and manage online bookings and communication as well as being a source of information. In the 9 months or so of its existence in 2020 the site was accessed over 23,000 times by more than 5,600 unique users.

Our Facebook page continues to be well used, and in 2020 increased use saw this audience double to around 500 'likes'. During the year we used this tool as way of connecting with local groups and networks to promote events and concerts. There is also a "Js & Bs Viral Chat' WhatsApp group operating (if you want to 'in' on the chatter do let us know).

Bells & Tower from Jo Ayre – Tower Captain

Bellringing at J's and B's started the year off with ringing from the midweek guild visiting in January. There were a few practice nights, and the arrangement for local practice nights to continue on Tuesdays, where new ringers and learners are most welcome, and a monthly "advanced" practice on Wednesdays. Sadly, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we last rung the bells on Sunday 22nd March where we had ensured all could ring safely by only ringing one bell (often ringers move to a different bell during the course of a session, but we chose not to do this).

There was no ringing from March 23rd and to date we have still not returned to ringing, although George and the Vicar have been able to use the Carillon bells, which you may have heard during the lockdowns.

It is anticipated that ringing can resume sometime in June. Prior to this the bells will need to be checked for any mechanical issues and general maintenance completed before we begin to ring again safely.

At present it is unknown if all of our ringers wish to or are able to return to ringing. We were a small band of ringers who relied on help from neighbouring churches with bells, and those rappings will need cementing again.

Opportunity was also found to repair the clock chime early on in lockdown. This now chimes every hour once more. The Carillon was also reconnected in order that the bells might be rung on occasion by one person, (this happened for example, before some of the Christmas Services and daily during the first lockdown).

A Rainbow flag was flown from the Tower during the first lockdown as a sign of our solidarity with all those Key Workers working through the lockdown. The 75th Anniversary of VE Day saw the bells chime, and in the stillness of the (locked-down) day, a loudspeaker was taken up on the roof in order to play a recording of the speech made by Winston Churchill at 3pm on the 8th May 1945. This was later followed by a socially distanced and very poignant moment in the gardens as the last post was sounded.

Children and Young People

The restrictions imposed over the past year have presented a particular challenge to what was our embryonic and newly formed group for young Children, *The Wonder Club*. This group continued to meet every two weeks during the main Sunday service using Godly Play resources to explore scripture.

In February of 2020, we took delivery of a recently redundant set of story kits and shelving units (offered on permanent loan) from the Cathedral. These were initially located in the Lower Vestry, but due to restrictions on space have now been set up in the memorial chapel area.

Our weekly *Toddler's Music Group* continued to meet every Thursday until Lockdown and was well attended. Before closure in the spring, the demand was such that we were about to begin a new pattern of running two sessions per week that were 'pre-booked' by families. It is hoped that this will restart as soon as restrictions allow in 2021.

In the Autumn of 2020, Charles Wooler (Organist) began to explore possibilities of future projects focusing on providing scholarships, choral and music tuition for

under 18s. Whilst these initial thoughts are in ‘concept’ only at this stage, it would be great to see this develop at Js & Bs over the coming years.

Deanery Synod Report *from Margaret Green*

At the APGM last year Rachel Gill and I were re-elected to serve for three years as St.James and St.Basil’s Representatives on the West Deanery Synod. Normally the Synod meetings are quarterly but, with the pandemic and lockdowns, this year has been very different. The last meeting of the previous Synod, scheduled for March, was cancelled and the first meeting of the new Synod, when officers were elected, did not take place until 7 December when we met virtually on Zoom.

The Area Dean, Rev’d Christine Brown, chairs the meetings. Regular items on the agenda at each meeting include news from around the parishes in the Deanery, and reports from the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Development Group, which meets to discuss Deanery & Parish matters.

Canon Carol Wolstenholme, as the much-respected West Deanery’s Representative on General Synod, gave regular reports of the meetings which she had attended and she would also inform us of any significant themes for future consideration. Sadly, Carol died in November after a short illness. Reports of the latest meeting can be found on the General Synod 23/24 website.

The Treasurer gives her financial report at each meeting. This year the Parish Share is to remain the same as it was in 2020 and it will be reviewed for next year. Not all parishes can maintain the target level and it is expected 79% of the target will be attained. Because of the current situation a one-off contingency fund has been set up to help parishes with a short-fall in income.

This year there will be new General and Diocesan Synods and Deanery Synod members are part of the electorate.

A Diocesan-Wide group has been looking at ways to implement the vision of a “Growing Church. Bringing Hope.” They have discussed a set of values and priorities that everyone can work on, towards being Generous with God’s transforming gifts, Open to God’s love and engaged in God’s transferring mission in word and action, At the December meeting the Archdeacon, the Very Rev’d Mark Wroe, and the then Bishop Of Berwick designate, hoped we would have the

ability to fulfil these values. Different ways maybe found to do things, such as working together in partnership across parish boundaries.

In November the Diocesan Synod voted to register the Newcastle Diocese as an Eco Diocese and parishes are being encouraged to join the scheme. At the March meeting the vicars of three parishes, Ponteland, Newburn and Fenham described their experiences. James was the first to speak. J's and B's was awarded a Bronze medal in 2019. With its church gardens so well used by the community, planned refurbishment in the hall to be Eco based, and Eco Liturgical references it does qualify but can go no higher as the lighting in the church cannot be converted to Eco without huge expense. For the present the Deanery Synod will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every quarter.

Electoral Roll *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

At the APGM last year there were 85 members on the Electoral Roll.

This year we welcome two new members, Hannah Greason and Ben Hardy. We remember with love those who have died over the year, Ian Dunn, Ena Helmrich, Bob Cockburn and Muriel Turner. With their loss and two new members there are now 83 members on the Electoral Roll.

As Ben and Hannah joined by 11 April, two weeks before the AGPM on 25 April, they may vote at the APGM. Anyone wishing to be on the Electoral Roll may still do so but they cannot vote until the APGM next year. In view of the confidentiality and privacy regulations the Electoral Roll is no longer displayed on the Church notice board but is kept in the church safe. Anyone wishing to see their own entry may do so on request.

Engagement with Schools

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2020. Though physical engagement with the school community was limited, the Vicar (as School Chaplain), moved 'online' along with other teaching staff. A number of virtual Collective Worship Assemblies were produced from venues as far ranging as the Church Roof and the Vicarage Potting Shed! Dame Allan's School also used the church to record a number of concerts and events.

2020 saw the retirement of Dr John Hind as Principal to the School. Dr Hind was instrumental in the appointment of a paid school Chaplain in partnership with the Diocese. He was a familiar face in our Tower as a member of the bell ringers. As we hold him in our prayers and memories, we welcome Mr Will Scott as Principal

to lead the school into a new generation. In the early part of 2020 Dame Allan's Secondary Schools were shortlisted as 'TES Independent School of the Year 2020': A testament to a great foundation on our doorstep.

The Vicar continued to serve on the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust). In the Autumn of 2020, the Vicar was appointed as a Director of The Pele Academy Trust. The Pele Trust operates Ponteland High School and five primary schools in and around Ponteland and includes two Church of England Primary Schools. The Vicar replaced the former Bishop of Berwick (the Right Reverend Mark Tanner) on the Board of Directors.

The research project reported in this section of the report last year came to an end in March 2020. This concerned a number of issues relating to clergy and school development, leadership and management. The Vicar was engaged in a review and research concerning Curate Training and School Development across the Church of England. The Vicar presented a report on this at Lambeth Palace in March 2020 (just days before the national Lockdown was announced). The findings will contribute to national policy development and future training of curates. The Vicar continues to meet (mainly virtually) with a peer support group of Diocesan Directors of Education from across England. This is one way in which the Parish not only supports local schools, but offers a contribution of time and energy to the National Church and our family of over 5000 Church of England Schools educating around 1 million Children and Young Adults across England.

Fabric

In the Spring of 2020, the PCC passed a motion to appoint Mr. Ian Lucas of Byrom Clark Roberts* as their Consulting Architect. This was approved by the DAC. Mr. Lucas is a specialist Ecclesiastical Conservation Architect based in Manchester and working mainly in the North West. Co-incidentally, he lived in Spittal Tongues for a period. Mr. Lucas visited Fenham early in the year and has been in regular contact throughout the year. Mr. Lucas is particularly concerned that our built heritage confidently 'tells its story' whilst for the current context and anticipating the next generations needs. Whilst the Vicar had previously worked briefly with Mr. Lucas in another parish, the Wardens and PCC were confident in his appointment and his ability, vision and skills to work with us in the coming years. This appointment saw the end of the previous relationship with Mr. Ian Ness who had been the Consulting Architect at Js & Bs (and many other parishes in the

Newcastle Diocese). *A note of thanks was sent to Mr. Ness on behalf of the PCC.*

*in mid 2020 Byrom Clark Roberts became part of the Smithers Purslow Partnership.

Church

Routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ continued to receive its regular visits from Woods of Huddersfield.

2020 was the Quinquennial Inspection year. This was intended to take place earlier in the summer. In the end, this took place in late summer/early autumn. It also included an inspection and testing of the electrical circuits and lightning conductor. Minor defects were noted, though by the year end the final written report had not been received. It is expected that some (minor) work will be needed to the electrical circuits. The Tower Roof (whilst not currently leaking) is likely to be highlighted and there will be a need to carry out repointing of parts of the exterior masonry over the next quinquennium. The PCC await the full report in the early part of 2021.

With the appointment of a New Architect in 2020, the opportunity was taken to carry out a full structural survey and new measured drawings were prepared of the Church (together with the gardens and hall). These will provide a useful baseline for any future plans and development as well as offering an accurate record of the fabric in its current state.

The Carpet in the Chancel was removed at the start of Advent as it had become a trip hazard. This may be replaced, in the meantime the stone floor has been cleaned, and a cleaner, brighter Chancel has been noted by many.

In the last annual report, it was noted that the aging sound system finally stopped worked towards the end of 2019. The PCC are pleased to report that a completely new system was installed in November and December of 2020. This new digital system was first specified early in 2020, this was reviewed to include additional capability in light of changing use over the year and now includes the facility to record or stream services and events online in high quality. The new system cost in excess of £15,000, of which a grant of £5416 from the National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund was received. The remaining amount came from the PCC and the very generous support of a number of individuals in our parish.

Fabric - Hall

Routine servicing continued in 2020.

The Hall saw a dramatic loss of income as a result of the COVID19 restrictions, with all activity in there initially ceasing. The Preschool and some of the evening groups did return for a period in the summer, but these were stopped again during the Second Lockdown with the Preschool continuing as the only user through to the end of the year. The PCC noted that the financial position of the Preschool appeared to be very precarious and as this is a significant source of rental income, this does present a potential future risk for the parish.

A new digital lock was installed that is controlled via an App. This gives specific access to nominated users at prescribed times. It also removes the risk associated with not knowing how many physical keys are in circulation. The App also logs times of entry and exit to the building which allows closer monitoring of use, (which is essential from a safeguarding point of view), and more accurate billing of actual use.

A total of 24 windows panels were replaced in the late summer and early autumn. These leaded panes replaced loose and discoloured acrylic sheets, and damaged panes in the toilets, the dormer window and the old kitchen area. The cost of this was £5,724. A grant of £2,000 was received from the *Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust* towards this work.

The main hall floor and the floors to the entrance hallway and toilet corridor were cleaned and polished. The Toilet Corridor, stairwell and upper landing were also repainted to brighten up the entrance way.

The Preschool cleared out some of their old equipment and access to the middle room was restored – though the Preschool had not entirely emptied this room by the end of the year.

The Old kitchen was emptied and work was carried out to clean up and restore the cupboards and install a water boiler. This area is to be used in the short term as a ‘brew kitchen’ by hall users. It will need some electrical work in the early part of 2021.

The Hall was included in the full structural survey and measured drawings of our buildings. By the middle of the year, our Architects had begun work to create an initial proposal and feasibility study for a full refurbishment of the hall. The Vicar and Wardens were keen that we began with a concept and vision and not a bank

balance! The intention is to aim to create a building that retains its status and character, that works in a more cohesive way with the whole Parish Estate and is a real growing community hub. By the end of the year the PCC had sight of initial conceptual drawings of a proposal. These included an extension of the upper room, (including a through floor lift), reconfigured toilets and kitchen, a ground floor glazed extension to incorporate a new entrance and café area, a new *Changing Spaces* WC, (these are fully accessible toilets that also include a hoist, shower and bed). We aim for the building to also be carbon neutral by using new heating technologies. The works will be significant and will represent perhaps the most significant single investment in Parish buildings since the Church and Hall opened 90 years ago: they will safeguard a sustainable future for the building for the coming generations.

By the year end the Architect was working on 3D images and together with quantity surveyors, was preparing a budget for the project, papers for various planning applications and documents for wider consultation. The PCC hope to be in a position to share details of the proposals for wider consultation in the early summer of 2021.

Finance *From Tim Bradbury (Treasurer)*

This year I am somewhat relieved to be able to say that the last financial year could have been a lot worse! We have managed to finish the year with an overall deficit of just over £2000.

Voluntary receipts have increased over the previous year thanks to an increase in planned giving, a high level of donations and most of all as a result of James sourcing £25,000 in grants available to help counter the effects of the pandemic and associated lockdowns. This has been counteracted by a significant fall in income from rental income from the hall and income from both musical and café activities.

Expenditure for the year was up on 2019 although this was caused by the expense of the new sound system which has been fully funded by a mixture of donations and grants. Heating and lighting costs were significantly down and for the first time we did not pay our full parish share, due to the marked reduction in our normal, non-restricted income.

Hopefully, things will start to get back to normal during the course of this year as lockdown restrictions are gradually removed and we can get back onto a more secure financial footing. The need for significant investment in the hall remains and we also need to look at the position regarding 32 Auburn Gardens which will soon need significant expenditure to bring it up to a suitable standard. The PCC are beginning to investigate possible options in this respect.

My thanks again to all who have helped me over the year to achieve a financial position which could have been so much worse and here's hoping for a better 2021.

Gardens

2020 saw the Gardens become a real, tangible asset to the parish in ways that have not been seen in recent times. The Lockdown restrictions meant that many local people sought out and found a place of sanctuary, of quiet relaxation in the sun, of family picnics and escape from worries and isolation. They were a real and physical statement of hope to a community that was struggling.

The Gardens continued to be maintained by some members of the Gardening Group. Heartfelt thanks are particularly noted to Jean Hannon and Evelyn Ormerod who carried out the majority of voluntary work over the summer. The Church Council continue to employ Penny Hunter on a part-time basis to support the development and management of the Gardens.

The Gardens became host to the Js & Bs Kiosk during the early days of lockdown easing, and as will be noted later, also become one of the first 'outdoor' concert venues to open in the North East in the summer of 2020.

At the end of the year, the PCC instructed our Architect to carry out more detailed inspections of the footpaths and to prepare a schedule of works to carry out repairs. We look forward to receiving these in the first part of 2021.

At the time of writing the Gardening Group have not met to hold their own annual meeting. They were invited to include a comment here, but in light of the limited activity over the past year, have chosen not to.

Godly Play

The Godly Play group and local Network Group were one casualty of COVID 19

restrictions in 2020. By the time the year had got underway after Christmas, it was clear that small group meetings would be limited and so the group paused its activity.

The Parish has been given a set of Story Kits and shelving together with other resources by the Cathedral. These were surplus to their requirements as the Cathedral entered a period of closure and building work.

In January 2020, Caroline McGowan, Helen Robertson and the Vicar led a day of workshops in Dame Allan's Junior school. These were well received and it was hoped that these might become a regular part of the school diary to support time to reflect and spiritual development.

Hospitality

The kitchen facilities in the church have been a great resource which means we are able to offer a welcoming and friendly space to families as they gather in church. This space in the corner of the church building serves to change the whole dynamic of the building and is a feature and continues to inspire other churches to do the same.

Use of the area was restricted at times during the year. However, in testament to its design, the area proved to be flexible enough to cope with the constantly changing COVID19 regulations.

Jazz @ Js & Bs *from Tony Roberts*

The regular evening jazz concerts could not take place in 2020, nevertheless we were able to include three jazz gigs as part of the "music in the gardens" series. All were trio groups which worked well in the area we used. Most of the musicians involved had played at the church previously at "Jazz at J's & B's" and were delighted to be invited to play in the gardens.

Liturgy & Worship

Our pattern of services in 2020 was greatly affected by the COVID19 restrictions. That said, we did manage to hold at least one service every week. In the early months of the year, we continued with our established pattern that was almost exclusively Eucharistic. We had a clear intent to give variety over a monthly cycle of Sundays to ensure that that our liturgy and regular public worship was as inclusive as possible, whilst still working to develop a strong choral tradition.

There was an intention to keep one Sunday per month as a little less formal in order that this might be an easier place to invite visitors, friends or family.

The Lockdown stopped public services for the remainder of the Spring and the early part of the Summer. We initially used Zoom to hold services of Morning Prayer. (We opted for Morning Prayer in order to retain the emphasis that Services of Communion should be physically open to all and shared together). Js & Bs was one of the first Churches in the West of City to reopen when restrictions began to lift in the early Summer. Our services retained live music wherever possible (thanks to the care and attention of Simon and Charles in keeping everything within the official Guidance).

Our 8am service did not restart. Prior to lockdown, numbers were low – typically around four or five people. In Advent a practice of holding Evening Prayer at 5:30pm began. This continued right through to the end of the year and saw numbers regularly in excess of those at the 8am service.

Restrictions on the use of shared material, meant that new service booklets were produced each week. These also incorporated the old Weekly Sheet. Throughout the COVID period and into the start of 2021 around 18 of these were delivered to members of our electoral roll each week in order that they could keep up to date. (This was particularly welcomed by those who were self-isolating or who could not access our online services, with a number of individuals repeatedly remarking that they always paused at 10am to join everyone in Spirit). The weekly service sheet is also available to download from our website (usually by Saturday lunchtime).

As the year went on, and as the Tiered system of restrictions and then the Second Lockdown was ordered we continued to experiment with a variety of online platforms including Facebook Live, YouTube, Zoom and Google Meet. All had their benefits, and all had their drawbacks! Regular online members were gracefully patient when things went wrong (and they often did) – and they gave regular feedback as we experimented. By the year end, a decision was made to use a paid for service, *Vimeo*. This would give us greater control and reliability over what we were able to produce. It also meant that we could offer the option of ‘streaming’ Funerals and Weddings for families as a paid for extra. Our main Sunday (together with Feast Days) are now streamed live on our website.

The PCC note their thanks to Niel Soulsby in particular for his tireless research and

learning through trial and error – and above all his patience when the Vicar or Director of Music enquired ‘what about putting an extra microphone or camera here?’!

A particular highlight of our return to Worship together in person, was the morning service of the Northern Chords Festival day on the 25th October, This saw our morning communion service accompanied by a live orchestra and choir with a setting of the St Nicholas Mass by Haydn.

The PCC recognise that Js & Bs were repeatedly amongst the first to re-open, to put systems in place to manage risk, and importantly, to do so with joy and creativity. This was only possible due to the team effort of many and the willingness to take risks.

By the end of 2020, there were no recorded incidents of COVID19 transmissions within our services or events.

Music from Simon Davies-Fidler. *A review of 2020, looking forward to the future.* J’s & B’s Singers has continued to work online with 30-40 singers attending Zoom rehearsals regularly. It is hoped that in-person rehearsals will resume at the end of June and plans are being made for concerts.

2020-2021 has seen a huge reduction in musical activity at J’s & B’s due to the pandemic. All our choirs and other group activity in the building was paused at the end of June and plans are being made for concerts to return during 2021.

Music has continued to be a part of Sunday morning services, in some form, throughout the pandemic. The J’s & B’s Quartet and Fenham Ensemble have contributed remote performances to worship and Charles has recorded Hymns and Voluntaries. Simon has cantored in services when guidance has allowed. Bonnie and Tim have deputised for Simon on occasion.

At Christmas we were able to have our usual Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Family Service and Midnight Mass, albeit with reduced numbers.

When guidance has permitted it (in August, September and December) a small choir has sung at Eucharist and Morning Prayer. The singers have been drawn

from Fenham Ensemble, Sanctuary Voices and J's & B's Quartet. *From March 2021 the small choirs have been able to return every week.*

Concerts in the building have not been possible this year, with the exception of the Northern Chords festival, in October, between lockdowns. The festival - a one day event this year - included several concerts over the course of the afternoon and evening, attended by small audiences. Northern Chords musicians also accompanied Voices of Hope singing the Mass in the morning service. Northern Chords will be back in May 2021 should the government's 'road map' unfold as planned.

Although indoor concerts haven't been possible, during the summer we held a series of outdoor concerts in the garden. These proved to be really popular with the local community and our regular attenders, with audiences keen to hear live music again. Highlights of the series were concerts by The Andy May Trio and LanderMason.

Although the outdoor series was made necessary by the pandemic, this is something we should look at keeping in our diary, given its popularity and financial success. We should look at ways of enhancing the quality of the events with overhead cover for performers and good sound. We are planning another series this year which will hopefully have the option of moving into the church in poor weather.

In August of 2021 we plan to launch a new community choir, following the departure of Streetwise Opera from the region. The new choir will allow the Streetwise performers to keep singing, albeit in a new group. Over time we will look to enlarge the group, hopefully engaging the most marginalised members of society and anyone who would enjoy singing at the church.

Although it has been a really challenging year J's & B's has managed to keep a programme of music going, either online or in-person, throughout the pandemic. All the musicians associated with the church have done an incredible job in keeping our work going. If all goes to plan, next year should be our busiest yet as all the cultural organisations return to work.

Sanctuary Voices *From Charles Wooler . Report for 2020, with some recent updates from early 2021.*

It's odd to recall that the last time that Sanctuary Voices were heard in Js and Bs before the pandemic struck was 13 months ago, at the last APCM on 15th March 2020. That rehearsal had a certain irony to it- such was the progress that Sanctuary had made in gelling together as a group of singers, that I had decided the branch out, away from universally known repertoire towards paths less trodden by most parish church choirs. And so, that morning with the Sunday music in the bag we looked ahead to Holy Week and Easter 2020 and began to rehearse Tallis' Salvator Mundi and Haydn's Little Organ Mass. At that point, few had any idea of how much would be cancelled and for just how long. That day too, was last time that the congregation sang a hymn inside the church. The point that I am really making is that the pandemic could so easily have been the death knell for a choir such as Sanctuary Voices, and that it has not been is a testimony to two vital factors: the insatiable desire of so many of its members to sing again (although for a number who were shielding this took a long time to come to fruition) and the commitment of James, the Wardens, Simon and you the congregation to support the choir in its early stages. Do not underestimate the power of the latter- far too many churches take the hard work of their singers for granted and labour under the delusion that a choir director merely needs to snap their fingers and singers capable of sight-reading Howells and Palestrina will beat a path to the choir stalls in numbers. One of the reasons that singers enjoy being in Sanctuary is because the congregation are so effective in expressing the enhancement music brings to the worship (and this is not limited to Sanctuary, but to Fenham Ensemble, Js and Bs Singers and the Quartet too), that they feel that their time is spent on something precious and worthwhile. So, to strike a P. G Wodehouse-esque note: please accept our collective appreciation of your collective appreciation.

Despite the various restrictions, Sanctuary have met as often as has been permitted and have enjoyed singing a number of Choral Eucharists. Of particular significance was Midnight Mass, which is a service I hope we can develop further in the future. Easter Sunday too was a particular pleasure, with two sung services which we hope demonstrates how we hope that the choir will continue to enhance the music of the church in the coming years. The pandemic has made many of us realise how much we missed singing and there is a huge keenness to sing more frequently, and to sing more challenging music, especially now that we have learnt just how effective smaller consorts of singers can be in worship.

Looking ahead, it is time to start broadening the choir's repertoire of mass settings, evening canticles and anthems. Recruitment shows early promise and I hope that interest in Sanctuary Voices from experienced singers continues. However, to sustain this for the future requires a culture of "growing your own" and a priority for 2021/2022 is to discuss ways of ensuring the choir's future through the provision of opportunities for school children and young adults. We cannot assume that there will always be a steady supply of singers trained elsewhere for us to tap into.

Sadly, in September we learnt of the death of Ian Robley, one of our founder members. Ian hadn't missed a single service with the choir since that first service of morning prayer in September 2018 (when we were still known as Charles' choir). His commitment, friendship and musicianship is dearly missed, and I know that his widow Angie has found comfort in her music making and friends here. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Sanctuary Voices would not function effectively if I were not supported adequately. I must thank Simon, James, Nicki and Margaret for their ever-friendly advice and help throughout the year- the task would be significantly harder without it. By the same token, my partner Jasmine needs acknowledgement too. Quietly, and without fuss she undertakes much of the administration of the choir- proof reading absolutely everything and finding solutions to problems I have yet to spot. With so many people contributing, music at Js and Bs is a team effort and is all the better for that.

The Organ *from Charles Wooler*

The organ has come to the fore during the pandemic. Whilst we were unable to have any of the choirs for a number of months, we have been very fortunate to have some superb cantors in the form of Simon, Bonnie and Tim. The organ has proved itself to be as effective in accompanying soloists as it has with choirs, congregations and solo repertoire. In place of hymns, organ music has been an invaluable way of providing musical discourse on the themes of each Sunday service- especially when combined with a commentary in the pew sheet so that the relevance of the music to the worship of the day is explained.

It's sad to report that the instrument hasn't always behaved itself impeccably, and has at times thrown a "Basil Fawlty" during services. We are currently in discussion with Wood of Huddersfield who restored the organ in 2015 to find

lasting solutions to the problem. We hope to have this completed by 6th June when the organ, along with the church, will celebrate its 90th birthday and I will mark this with a recital.

Outside parish life, the organ is growing in recognition regionally and nationally now that it has been restored. In partnership with the Newcastle and District Society of Organists, recitals are planned for the Autumn of 2021 that include performances by a prize-winner from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and cathedral organists from Coventry and Southwark. Its educational role is being realised too and is in increasing demand for training workshops with organisations such as the Royal College of Organists.

Just as we were about to be plunged into the first lockdown, our own Walker organ acquired a friend: the Wetheringsett Organ, a reconstruction of a 1530s Tudor Organ on loan until Easter 2022 from the RCO. Covid massively reduced the scope for its use, but we have enjoyed hearing it for voluntaries. It is our intention to use it in concerts more fully when restrictions permit.

Equipment and Resources

As is detailed elsewhere, a significant investment has been in a replacement audio and video system for the church.

Other new items include,

- A set of new tables and trolley for the hall
- Crowd control 'rope and pole' barriers in the church
- Hand sanitizer stations for the church and hall
- A high-speed broadband connection and WiFi in the church

Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)

The Vicarage

As the reported in last year's report, the bathrooms continued to deteriorate, with leaks occurring in the rooms below. In October, the main bathroom was refitted, and the shower room was relocated to another room in order to incorporate a WC. The works to bathrooms were organized and funded by the Diocese.

Electrical problems still persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring.

The Diocese were due to replace some of the external gates and carry out minor repairs to the guttering. At the year-end these works were still outstanding. A visit by the Diocesan Surveyor in the Autumn highlighted that some works would be needed in the spring of 2021; namely repairs to (or replacement) of a number of windows. The House is also now due for exterior decoration.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. Investigations were carried out to determine if additional gas fires might be installed, however questions were raised about the gas supply to the house (which is already technically running over capacity). Installation of a new, larger gas main will be expensive and was not felt to be the correct route (as this would inevitably lead to larger gas bills and only serve to increase the carbon footprint of the house). Solid Fuel options may be possible, though again, this doesn't really solve the problem of heating inefficiency. The Diocese has offered to explore ways in which the efficiency of the house might be improved in the near future.

The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space. However, it is accepted that, given its design and status, the house cannot readily be adapted at reasonable costs and so no major works are planned in the near future. The Vicarage continues to provide good accommodation for the clergy family.

32 Auburn Gardens

The house owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish. The house continued to be rented to a local family. At the end of 2020, the PCC was made aware that the tenant had given notice and would be leaving in the spring of 2021. The PCC also became aware that the house had not received any significant attention for a number of years and there were some concerns that some work would be needed in the near future to maintain the house in good condition. In 2021, once the house is empty (hopefully only briefly) the PCC will consider what might be needed in the longer term, and also the best option for the future stewardship of this significant asset of the PCC.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of upmost

importance. Events in the wider Church of England are a painful reminder of the importance of the need to pay attention to this area; that can no longer be treated as an optional extra, or something that is of little significance.

Health and Safety

In line with our Insurance requirements and with national Church policy, all parish activities now require a written risk assessment to be carried out. In the Spring of 2020, written risk assessments began to be carried out for all activities. The circumstances of the year with COVID 19 restrictions meant that this became a constantly changing and increasing workload.

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out at the end of 2020 and although the written report had not been received at the year end, it was known that some minor items needed attention, (for example, minor changes to electrical switched, and removal of worn leather/rubber stair nosings and treads that now present a trip hazard).

Safeguarding - from Margaret Green

Although there have been a few changes in Safeguarding this year, most of what I reported last year remains the same. The basic aim is still “ that the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount”

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, (DSA) is responsible for overseeing the protection of this vulnerable group and policies are continually under review. At the end of June last year Ruth Rogan retired from her part time position as DSA. Carol Butler is now the DSA. The fact that this is now a full time position with an assistant demonstrates the enormity of the work and how it is growing.

The Safeguarding Policy, agreed upon by the PCC, and reviewed yearly, is on the church notice board. Also on the notice board is the Church of England’s booklet “ Promoting a Safer Church” and photographs of the Safeguarding Team which consists of Rev’d James McGowan, Jeanette Welch, Margaret Johnson and myself as Safeguarding Officer. Information on Safeguarding and the Safeguarding website, where I can be contacted and where there are useful phone numbers, can be found on the church website at www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk. Information regarding safeguarding is also on the Sunday Service Sheet.

To promote a safe environment anyone in contact with the vulnerable, and all PCC members, have to be DBS checked. (Declaration and Baring Service) This is a criminal record check which has to be renewed every five years. At one time paper forms were completed and documents seen to prove identity. On line form filling has replaced the paper forms and, now with the pandemic and lockdowns making checking documents more difficult, photographs of the necessary documents are now emailed for me to see. Several PCC members have had their DBS renewed this year. Every three years everyone who had been DBS checked has to go on training courses. Before the pandemic these were held in various centres around the Diocese but now a course consists of two much shorter sessions, held a few weeks apart, with smaller groups and they take place on Zoom. So far Rev'd James McGowan, Margaret Cutting, Nicki Walter and I have attended courses

A national Church of England Confidential Declaration form has to be completed by those DBS checked and by those recruited for jobs that do not require DBS checking. These are strictly confidential and are kept in the church safe. They will only be seen, if necessary, by the Safeguarding Team and the Vicar.

Any Safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and reported to the DSO and support will be given to those in need.

Safeguarding is on every PCC Agenda. A Safeguarding Audit is carried out annually. Carol Butler was to have attended our Service of Remembrance in November but this had to be postponed as we had just gone in to lockdown. It is hoped we will be able to arrange another time for her to join us for a service and maybe she will be able to talk to us about Safeguarding.

Scouts – 82nd Newcastle *From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader*

This past year has been a strange one, as has it been for everyone. Following The Scout Associations instruction our last face to face Beavers, cubs and Scouts was on 13th March last year. Like the rest of the world we went digital and that infamous comment – ‘you’re on mute’ became one of the most used phrases of the year.

The cessation of Face-to-Face Scouting meant no Easter activities, no St. George's day celebration, we couldn't take part in our annual Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT), our bi annual visit to the County Camp -Marra was cancelled, the

much anticipated week long trip to WINGS 2020 (Windsor International Guides and Scouts) was postponed for a year only to then be cancelled all together and our annual group camp was postponed for a year. So our digital sessions began and the leaders rallied incredibly to the challenge as did the young people. At least of half of our young people have not taken part in the zoom sessions for a variety of reasons, some have worked on badge work that we were able to provide and some have just paused their Scouting for now. In September we were fortunate to get back to face to face Scouting for all of 6 weeks, however this was different, we can only have groups of up to 15 young people at a time, so attendance was fortnightly, Covid Safe activities and practices were implemented before we were allowed to return.

The resilience the young people and leaders have shown is awesome, and in true Scouting spirit. They have all had their challenges with school/home schooling, the leaders working, being furloughed or working from home has been hard. Rick and Liz our Beaver Leaders are both hospital doctors and have seen at first hand the challenges, particularly Rick who was for some months at the onset of the pandemic working on a Covid ward. But we are ever hopeful that things will start to get back to some sort of normal and all things going well we return to face to face Scouting on 23rd April 2021 – St. George’s Day, how appropriate as St. George is patron saint of Scouts! Take care and stay safe everyone

Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer

During Lent 2020, a group began a series that linked the life of Stephen Hawkin with faith. This used a guided study and excerpts from the film *The Theory of Everything*. Each week upto 12 of us met in church. Sadly, this course was unable to continue due to COVID19 restrictions and so we missed the final sessions. When the COVID restrictions began to take effect and before a full lockdown was ordered by the government a number of stations were set up in church to encourage people to find a few moments of individual reflection. These remained in place throughout the Lockdown period and were used again when the church reopened in the summer.

Continued restrictions at the end of the year meant that it was not possible to meet in groups during advent.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.

The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- and*
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.*

To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- (c) an actual communicant;*
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;*
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).*

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1**
- 2) Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda

- 1) Apologies**
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 2**
- 3) Matters arising**
- 4) Election of**
 - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)**
 - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**
 - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers** *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*

- 5) **Appointment of Auditor**
- 6) **Report on the proceedings of the Church Council**
this document to be taken as such a report
- 7) **Treasurer's Report Accounts attached in appendix 3**
 - a. **Examination of audited accounts**
 - b. **Statement of funds & property** *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) **Fabric Report** *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question will be given.*
- 9) **Chairman's Report** *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) **Any Other Business** – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

Appendix 1

Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2020 (Vestry meeting)

Minutes

Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
- 2) Two nominations were received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting.
All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

Appendix 2

The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 15th March 2020 During 10am Service in Church

Minutes of Meeting

1. Present & Apologies for absence APCM 2020

PRESENT: Revd James McGowan (Chair), Nicki Walter, Margaret Cutting, Susan Grainger, Maggie Rajendran, Gillian Howe, Eunice Davidson, Tony Roberts, Margaret Green, Joo Li Ng, Niel Soulsby, Tim Bradbury, Caroline McGowan, Joanne Ayre, David Welch, Nigel Welch, Nicholas Martin, Ruth Rogan, Marjorie

Rochester, Alexander Omobude, Ellen Omobude-Muns, Bonnie Brinn, Gillian Cunningham, Ena Helmrich, Charles Wooler, Jeanette Welch (Minutes).

APOLOGIES: Joan Duckett

Attendance 2020

There were 28 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan

2. Vestry Meeting 2020 – Election of Church Wardens

At the Vestry meeting Nicki Walter and Margaret Cutting were duly elected as Church Wardens to which
ALL AGREED.

3. Minutes of the AGM 2019

There being no amendments these were signed as true and correct by Revd James McGowan.

Proposed by: Susan Grainger

Seconded by: Bonnie Brinn

ALL AGREED

The Agenda, previous minutes from 2019, reports, and the Financial Statement of Accounts for 2019 from Tim Bradbury (Treasurer) which were printed in the form of a Booklet and distributed to all on the Electoral Roll in advance of the 2020 APCM, are available and will be stored in the Church including these minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of AGM 2018

There were no matters arising from the minutes of APCM 2019.

5. Election of:

a) Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)

There were 2 nominations:

- Rachel Gill
- Margaret Green

There being no other nominations these two appointments were
AGREED BY ALL

b) Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) (1 required)

There were no nominations.

c) Sidespersons

Under the new rules these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Alan Torrance was elected as Examiner of the Parish Accounts

Proposed by: Susan Grainger

Seconded by: Margaret Johnson

ALL AGREED

7. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council

These were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this document to be taken as such a report.

There were no comments

8. Receive Report from the Treasurer for 2019

Tim Bradbury (TB – Treasurer) reported that the Finance Accounts for 2019 had been discussed and accepted at a previous meeting by the PCC, which were then examined independently by Alan Torrance.

TB highlighted the receipts page there was a mistake of £136 from “Sunday Coffee” which had inadvertently been entered into the “Hall” column and which belongs in the “General” column and this will be corrected.

TB continued with an overview of the accounts for the last financial year 2019:

Income

- These were pretty good for last year and we are up by £1,000 in credit more than previous year.

However there is no room for complacency as we do have two big projects ahead of us for which we will have to spend a lot of money on:

- Sound System in Church
- Church Hall Refurbishment and upgrading

Coronavirus

TB particularly reported that we are likely to see a significant reduction in our income because of this in the coming months.

- Music (Js & Bs Choir Subs) & Café amount to income of £35,000 annually
 - The café is currently still open

- Js & Bs Singers are suspending activities currently this means a loss of £3,000 to half term only.
- Hall rental of £23,000 annually
 - It is likely this income will also fall.

We can only watch and wait and it is probable that our financial situation will be stretched. TB stated that it could mean that we may be unable to pay our Parish Share in full. However, we are very fortunate to have a very generous congregation.

Planned Giving

This income has increased significantly to £15,000 as we have new generous donors within our church community who have joined the Planned Giving Scheme.

Unfortunately, this report of our financial picture for the forthcoming year is slightly depressing than had been anticipated. We have in challenging circumstances found solutions in the past and hope and pray that we still can in these trying times and hopefully as time goes by things will become easier.

There followed a vote to accept:

Proposed by: Rachel Gill

Seconded by: Nigel Welch

ALL AGREED

Notification of the results of the Election of Church Wardens and Deanery Synod Representatives were duly posted.

9. Fabric Report

This had already been mentioned by TB and there were no questions.

10. Chairman's Report

This was presented as a "Review of the Year" during the service by Revd James McGowan. The Vicars Report is included in the booklet. Revd James McGowan concluded by extending grateful thanks to all who volunteer in whatever capacity for the Church.

Next PCC Meeting: Wednesday 15th April 2020 at 7:30pm in The Vestry

12. A.O.B

There being no other business the meeting closed

Jeanette Welch

Secretary to PCC



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

St James and St Basil, Fenham

On accounts for the year ended

31/12/2020 Charity no (if any) 1184511

Set out on pages

1,2,3 and 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Jane Makepeace Date: 15.3.21

Name:

Mrs Jane Makepeace

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Appendix 3 Financial statements

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December 2020, together with the financial statements for 2020.

= December 2020 All fund codes consolidated

Table with columns for fund codes (Cash Funds, Bank current account, Bank savings account, CBF 1, CBF2, TSB, Other Monetary Assets, Investment Assets, Other Tangible Assets, Liabilities, Net assets/liabilities) and values.

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 06/03/2021

December 2020 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Voluntary Receipts										
Donations received	8,855.91	450.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	29.00	5,665.00	2,000.00	0.00	17,021.91
Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Collections	968.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	968.61
Planned Giving	15,775.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,775.00
Gift aid tax received	8,019.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,019.98
Grants received	1,789.20	9,468.50	0.00	13,030.00	3,870.00	0.00	7,100.00	0.00	0.00	35,257.70
	35,408.70	9,918.50	0.00	13,030.00	3,892.00	29.00	13,765.00	2,000.00	0.00	78,043.20
Receipts from Fundraising Activities										
Fundraising income	564.58	862.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,426.58
	564.58	862.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,426.58
Receipts from Charitable Activities										
Fees	3,654.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,654.00
Rent	0.00	8,177.21	6,810.20	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,187.41
Charitable Activity Receipts	10.00	480.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	490.00
Sunday coffee	385.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	385.00
Cafe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,701.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,701.20
Choir subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,265.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,265.00
Concert income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,402.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,402.56
	4,049.00	8,657.21	6,810.20	0.00	9,867.56	7,701.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,085.17
Receipts from Investments										
Interest received	31.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.89	42.11
	31.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.89	42.11

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

Printed: 06/03/2021

December 2020 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Receipts										
Miscellaneous receipts	3,217.27	123.71	0.00	287.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,628.03
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3,217.27	123.71	0.00	287.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,628.03
Fundraising Costs										
Charitable Donations	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(150.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(150.00)
Charitable Activities Costs										
Heat, Light and Power	5,006.66	5,003.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,010.32
Maintenance	6,801.65	0.00	135.00	285.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,222.25
Hall Maintenance	0.00	6,764.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,764.00
Grounds Maintenance	197.08	0.00	0.00	3,330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,527.08
Insurance	0.00	0.00	195.17	9,706.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,902.01
Development	3,571.51	1,164.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,592.00	0.00	0.00	21,327.51
Worship	3,476.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,241.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,717.69
Diocesan fees	3,255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,255.00
Parish Share	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
Honoraria	2,233.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,233.00
Clergy Expenses	2,916.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,916.97
Council Tax	2,403.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,403.55
Water rates	659.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	659.32
Volunteer expenses	1,461.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,566.78
Cafe expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	394.52
Office costs	1,911.42	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	394.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,019.42
Printing & stationery	127.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	127.00
Music expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,959.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,959.06
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	(64,020.34)	(13,039.66)	(330.17)	(13,322.44)	(12,200.70)	(500.17)	(16,592.00)	0.00	0.00	(120,005.48)

December 2020 year to date turnover

	<u>General</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Total</u>
Governance Costs										
Sum up charges	187.92	0.78	0.00	0.00	6.84	3.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	199.53
Bank charges	316.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	316.22
	(504.14)	(0.78)	0.00	0.00	(6.84)	(3.99)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(515.75)
Other Costs										
Miscellaneous costs	2,074.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	364.49	0.00	0.00	2,438.69
	(2,074.20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(364.49)	0.00	0.00	(2,438.69)
Transfers										
Transfers between funds	(48,000.00)	15,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	17,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	48,000.00	(15,000.00)	(13,000.00)	0.00	(3,000.00)	(17,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net receipts/payments	24,522.09	(8,479.02)	(6,519.97)	(5.39)	(1,447.98)	(9,773.96)	(3,191.49)	2,000.00	10.89	(2,884.83)
Cash funds at start of year	-23,892.03	17,628.58	10,736.75	-8,601.50	6,980.19	20,230.19	364.49	0.00	3,426.48	26,873.15
Cash funds at end of year	630.06	9,149.56	4,216.78	-8,606.89	5,532.21	10,456.23	-2,827.00	2,000.00	3,437.37	23,988.32